F. LANSDOWNE

"These lines by Mary Edgerton say what so many of us feel: "How silent would the world have been, without a cheery purr, without God's gift of friendship, wrapped in packages of fur."

ELEANOR SONSINI
County Dog Officer
16 Taconic St.
Pittsfield

12/22/76

Scrapbook L

Benjamin Ginsberg

TNT AUTOMOTIVE owners Anthony Luchi, left, and Theodore Peetros stand behind the service counter of the store they have recently opened on West Park Street in Lee.

Auto-repair shop opens in Lee

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — Theodore Peetros and and Anthony Luchi, revved up with confidence, determination and the conviction that they can run an auto supply store profitably and yet pass on savings to their customers, have opened TNT Automotive in the former Barritt Oil Company store on West Park Street.

Both are 21 years old and say they are already experienced in the sale of auto supplies and parts installation.

As they tell it, they were working in different auto-supply stores in Berkshire County, yet both saw the profits available and both felt that with quantity buying they could sell products for less.

Their paths merged about a year ago when Peetros, then working as manager of Raynor's Bearing and Supplies in Lee, sold a car to Luchi, who was then manager of Automotive Products in Pittsfield.

Luchi, who has also managed Richie's Speed City in Pittsfield, then returned the favor by building Peetros an engine for a 1936 Ford coupe.

The two hit it off, and the partnership of TNT Automotive began. TNT stands for Tony and Ted, the nicknames of the two men.

The pair says that TNT will be "a complete automotive center," specializing in servicing both foreign and domestic cars and in selling and installing automobile parts. It will also offer a complete machine shop including welding and engine-building.

Luchi and Peetros say they can "service anything up to a tractor-trailer." They have worked on cars as old as 1929 models.

"We know how to buy right and we know how to buy in quantity. We can keep the costs down that way," Luchi says.

The two feel they have had the best automotive training anyone can get.

"We worked on our own cars from the time we were kids," Luchi says. "I worked on my first car when I was 8."

Peetros says he knew he wanted his own shop when he took a car to an automotive store "and got screwed. It shouldn't be that way," he said.

The store will be open Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., on Fridays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lee aging council plans square dance

LEE — The Council on Aging will sponsor a square dance Friday from 8 to 10 p.m. at the Railroad Street office building to help raise money for the senior citizen center at the building. There will be a donation of 50 cents.

The dance will mark the first community event held at the center, which officially opened late last year. The proceeds from the dance will be used to buy furnishing for the center.

Ed Hall of Lee will be the caller for the dance. Hall will also teach simple dances for novices

Bowers is secretary of Greenock club

LEE — David C. Bowers of St. James Avenue has been named the new secretary-treasurer of the Greenock Country Club. He replaces Arlene Duquette of East Street, who resigned last month.

As secretary-treasurer, Bowers is responsible for keeping the club's financial records and taking care of club correspondence.

3/11/76

Civic group sets cleanup for Sunday

LEE — The South Lee Civic Association will sponsor a clean-up of the community's streets tomorrow from 3 to 5 p.m.

Those participating in the cleanup will meet at the South Lee Fire Station at 3.

In other association news, the paper collection drive to raise money to help send South Lee children to summer camp is continuing. Ray Morehouse of Main Street is in charge of the drive.

Beacon Sign Moves To Lee

Clipped 3/10/76

LEE — Beacon Sign Company which was formerly located in Great Barrington has moved to new quarters at 33 Center Street. Louis Nejame of Lenox, who runs the business, said the move allows him to be more centrally located in the South Berkshire area where most of his customers are located.

Nejame said he also plans to sell and service televisions from the location. He said he is affiliated with an RCA dealer from Pittsfield. A major feature of his business will be 36-hour repair service for all but major repairs.

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1-15-76 Eagle

Lee butcher, Julie Bartini, will retire

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — Becoming a butcher just happened naturally to Julian A. Bartini.

Fifty-nine years ago, at the age of 14, he needed some money to buy some land he wanted. The easiest way, he figured, was to buy a horse, butcher it and sell the skin.

Bartini got not only his $40, but also a lifelong profession.

And this Saturday, after 59 nearly uninterrupted years as a butcher, the last 25 as the owner and operator of the Main Street Market, the man known as "Julie" to numerous friends and countless relatives, is selling the store and retiring from fulltime work.

The retirement of Bartini, now 73, will mark not only the closing of a Lee institution, but also the passing of one of Berkshire County's last oldtime butchers.

Bartini quickly found after selling the horseskin that he liked being a butcher. For the next 30 years he sold his meat and skill as a butcher to the residents of Tyringham and Lee.

"Oh, I used to travel all over Tyringham for many years either selling people meat that I had cut from animals I bought, or I'd come in and butcher the people's animals," Bartini said yesterday.

"I couldn't really tell you exactly why I started being a butcher. I just started and that was it," he recalled while standing behind the market's meat counter and beneath a plastic replica of the hot dogs that stuff the counter along side rows of handcut chops and steaks and hamburg.

"I taught myself to cut the meat. Matter of fact, I taught myself just about everything," he said while remembering a youth that included avid participation as an end and tackle on local football teams and as a boxing compatriot of Pittsfield middleweight David Shade.

With a characteristic elfish grin on his face, he tells of having to have a parental permission slip signed for his football team.

"I was afraid they wouldn't do it, so I just took it home and signed it myself," he said.

After 30 years of riding the Tyringham meat-cutting circuit, Bartini became a butcher and chief meat buyer for the old Lee Supermarket. He stayed there for 15 years.

Then followed a short stint on a wetting machine at the old Smith Paper Co.

But Bartini says he wanted his own butcher business, and so in 1950 he bought the Main Street Market with Angelo DiMario. Bartini gained full ownership of the market a few years later.

In keeping with a tradition of strong family ties, Bartini has been assisted for the past 23 years by his son-in-law, John Feltre. Feltre and his family now live in a Fairview Street home Bartini and his relatives built themselves more than 20 years ago. And Julie now lives with his granddaughter, Laurie Hoff, and her family on Fairview Street.

The decision to sell the market was not an easy one, Bartini says. "But I'm getting kind of old now, it's time to give it someone younger," he explains.

However, Bartini's advancing age has until now not yet cut down a work-week that would exhaust many a younger man.

"I'm in the store at 5:30 every morning. You have to be to get things ready for the day. People start coming in early to buy things like milk," he says.

"And I'm here to 7 or 8 every night, getting things all ready for the morning," he explains.

"When I retire, I'm going to slow down a bit. I'll still work three days a week for eight hours a day. But now I'm going to relax some and get a good rest," Bartini says.

The store has been sold to three Lee men — Mark Wheeler, Edward Rossi and James Herlihy. They plan to open a deli shop featuring imported Italian foods and some fresh fish.

The decor and owners of the Main Street Market will change. But at least three times a week, Julie Bartini will still be there.

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

Julian A. "Julie" Bartini behind the counter of Lee's Main Street Market

Eagle 1-27-76

Natalie Cole to sing benefit for BCDS

When Natalie Cole comes to Taconic High School in Pittsfield on Feb. 9 at 7:30 for a benefit concert for Berkshire Country Day School in Stockbridge it will be like a homecoming for the 25-year-old singer who was recently nominated for two Grammy awards.

Ms. Cole's two 14-year-old twin sisters attend Berkshire Country Day School and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Devore of Tyringham, are the owners of the Morgan House in Lee. Mrs. Devore is also a trustee of the school.

Ms. Cole is Mrs. Devore's daughter by her previous marraige to the late Nat King Cole.

Ms. Cole's stay in the Berkshires will be a short one. She is singing at Symphony Hall in Boston on Feb. 8 and has to catch an 8 a.m. plane for an engagement in Los Angles on Feb. 10.

According to Mrs. Devore, Ms. Cole received her first introduction to music in the Cole household, with such music legends as Ella Fitzgerald, Buddy Rich, Count Basie and Harry Belafonte passing through for visits.

She was a professional actress by the age of 11, but temporarily put aside that career at the age of 17 to attend UMass in Amherst. While in Amherst, she started singing with college bands.

By May 1973, she was a professional, opening at the Copa in New York. She played the nightclub and concert circuit for a year and a half, and then became a "star" earlier this year with the release of her first album "Inseparable."

Her biggest hit on the album was the song "This Will Be," which became a best seller.

Ms. Cole has recently made her second album, which is still unnamed and will be released in about a month.

Natalie Cole will sing at Taconic High School Feb. 9

Lee Audio adds to staff

LEE — David Corbett of 31 Lincoln St., Pittsfield, former manager of the Lafayette Radio Store in Pittsfield, has joined the staff of Lee Audio 'n Security, Inc., on Fairview Street.

In his new duties, Corbett will be responsible for marketing the company's commercial sound and communications systems, as well as its fire and security alarms throughout Western Massachusetts, Vermont and eastern New York.

Corbett is a graduate of Pittsfield High School and Commercial Trades Institute, and served in the U.S. Air Force for four years.

He and his wife, the former Jean French, have four children.

Valentine cards by American Greeting, great selection at McClelland Rexall Drug. — Adv.

4-5-76 Eagle

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

FLIPPER HENRY G. Greiner demonstrates style that earned him the nickname "Hot Cakes" at Lee Kiwanis Club pancake breakfast. The club served more than 400 breakfasts and lunches Sunday. The proceeds will go to the club's youth programs.

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Lee UCF announces its annual meeting

LEE — The Lee United Community Fund will hold its annual meeting Thursday, April 15, at 12:15 at the East Lee Steak House.

The agenda for the meeting includes approval of the year's allocations to the agencies supported by the fund, and the election of new officers, council members and nominating committee members.

Lee man hurt when hit by car

LEE — Paul Dupont, 52, of Main Street was listed in good condition this morning at the Pittsfield General unit, BMC, where he was recovering from injuries sustained when he was struck by a car as he was crossing Main Street here Saturday evening.

The driver of the car, Joseph P. Callahan, 63, of Waterbury, Conn. was arraigned this morning in Lee District Court on charges of driving to endanger and driving while under the influence of alcohol. His case was continued to March 1.

Lee Police said the accident occurred about 5:55 p.m. as Dupont was crossing Main Street near its intersection with Railroad Street. Dupont was crossing from west to east and was hit by the southbound Callahan vehicle, according to Chief John J. Boyne.

Dupont was thrown about 10 feet after he was struck and suffered a fractured hip, a bruised shoulder and face lacerations, Boyne said.

Dupont was taken to BMC by the Lee Ambulance.

lice.

Name in the News

Dramatic mover

If Bonnie Gable didn't believe in the occult before, she must be doing a double take now. Almost, as the psychics predicted, she has made what could be termed a "dramatic move" only a few months after her 30th birthday.

The prediction that she would make such a move before three decades, or would not live, was made by several palm readers, she says, and reinforced by an astrological chart.

Last weekend she signed a two-year lease for the rental of the 300-seat theatre on the Lenox campus of Holliston Junior College, formerly the site of Windsor Mountain School. In anticipation of that move, she has already formed the Berkshire Performing Arts Center, Inc., which she heads.

Part of the long-awaited dream is the formation of her own repertory company, which she expects will begin performances next March or April.

* * * * *

She plans to run the theatre professionally, breaking even at about 40 per cent capacity. "I do not expect to make a tremendous amount of money the first year," she said, adding that she hopes to have enough financing to operate initially, even at a loss.

She has already hired four actors or actresses, two of them amateurs with a "professional attitude" from the area. The other two are from Boston and New York. Everyone who works for the company will have a stake in the theatre, earning more as receipts grow.

She wants the people she hires to be flexible, selling tickets, making sets, etc., as well as playing leads in classical, modern and experimental plays.

Besides the repertory company, she hopes to present dance productions, lectures and films, including an international film festival later this year.

She will be the first to admit that running a profitable theatre takes hard work and a practical business sense as well as artistic judgment. Her background indicates both.

As vice president of Launderwell, Inc., which has coin-operated laundries in Lenox and Pittsfield and builds them for other people, she works with figures daily.

"Doing the laundry work keeps me in contact with reality," she says, admitting that "theatre people always end up talking to other theatre people" as if no one else existed.

* * * *

She, too, seems transported when talking "theatre." Her usually imperturbable demeanor will change gradually as she makes points by abruptly pounding her fist on the table.

As an undergraduate at Gettysburg (Pa.) College, she majored in math and physics, taking after her famous late grandfather, Sidney Fitzpatrick, who was vice president in charge of chemical engineering publications at McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., chairman of the Advisory Committee on Industrial Relations to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, president of the American Institute of Chemical Engineering and the Electrochemical Society, and drafter of the technical portion of the Treaty of Versailles.

"He was known as the father of chemical engineering," she says proudly.

Not surprisingly, her grandfather was disappointed when she enrolled in the graduate theatre program at Adelphi University, Long Island, N.Y. Besides the lead in a Lenox Memorial High School play, her work in the college's theatre was her first direct participation in "turning people on to theatre."

Susan Besaw

Miss Gable: From soap to greasepaint.

Her appetite only whetted, she spent about five years in New York, working with such notables as Joseph Papp, Arthur Cantor and Ellen Stewart.

* * * *

It was Ms. Stewart, head of the experimental LaMama Theatre, who affected her most.

"She gave me a lot of room to grow," she says softly, respectfully. "That's what I want in my theatre. I'm more interested in people on their way up, than those who are already there."

She remembers one incident when her parents came to New York and walked down decaying E. 4th Street, into the theatre past the freaks, and up five flight of stairs to a kitchen table at which Ms. Stewart sat conversing with New York Times critic Clive Barnes.

"When my parents came in, she paid no attention to Barnes," she says. "She told my father her life story, realizing my parents were nervous about whom I was with. . .

"They (her parents) floated right down the stairs past the freaks and were halfway to Lenox before they realized they came to New York to bring me back here."

About three or four years ago, she did come back, however, and went into the laundry business with her father and a brother, always taking time to serve as director, actress, producer and stage manager for productions of the Town Players of Pittsfield and the Pittsfield College Club. Amidst the dirty clothes and planning for the theatre, she is now directing the Town Players production of "The Mouse Trap," which will open at the end of the month.

A schedule to make anyone groan does not daunt her, however.

"Working is a part of my enjoyment. . .a part of my life-style," she says.

Making a theatre succeed will be difficult, admitted one acquaintance, "but if anybody can do it, Bonnie can."

1-6-76 Eagle

A visit to Marco Island

Peltier

Berkshire residents by a Florida pool are, back row, Madelyn Burke, Margaret McKeever and Eileen Kelly. Seated are Nora McMahon, Gert Tully, Eleanor Peltier and Frank Kelly.

By Marcel E. Peltier

SARASOTA — Recently, along with Joe and Nora McMahon, we spent three days as guests of Gert and Bill Tully, who are at Marco Island for three months. It was our first visit to this newly inhabited — 10-year-old — island, 20 miles southeast of Naples on the West Coast. It has a population of 6,000 at present and growing at a rapid rate, as is most all of Florida, and it is only one-twelfth developed.

Marco has 12 miles of beautiful beach and many waterways throughout the island, ideal for docking one's yacht nearby, two lovely golf courses — which, incidentally, we found too rich for our blood — and all the other luxuries one would ever want. We had a wonderful three days. However, we went to Naples to play golf at the Riviera golf course, where the green fees were within our range.

While at Marco, we met many Berkshire people who are spending two or three months on the island. Vin and Marg McKeever, Frank and Eileen Kelly, Ed and Madelyn Burke, Garfield and Dolly Canon, Tom and Joan Mougin, Ed and Ann Mougin, Abbie Cerruti Doman, Ernie and Jean Scarpa, Peg Killacky, Marian Tyer, Al and Peg Fraser, and Ed and Juanita Thomas.

The Burkes will leave Marco on the 15th and go to Miami to visit their daughter and son-in-law, Bernadette and Jim Zancanoto. Jim is a sheriff in Dade County and Bernadette is a nurse at the American Hospital in Miami.

* * *

Mrs. Jennie Horton of Rose Manor is visiting her son and daughter-in-law, George and Bobby Horton in Naples. She has been down since November and will return around the latter part of February. Among others who are wintering in Naples are: Sam and Esther Cutler, Mr. and Mrs. John Cantarella and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Bennett. Naples has grown tremendously. When Ed and Helen Wallace and Bob and Lois Exford, settled here five or six years ago, they were considered way out of town, now they are practically in the center.

Driving north from Naples we stopped at Bonita Springs to see Butch and Ann Kirkpatrick, where they are wintering in their mobile home on Anglers Paradise. They are former owners of the Dalton Avenue Variety store. A neighbor of theirs for the winter is Zell Pianarosa. Ann tells us Zell is doing a lot of volunteer work at the hospital in Naples. Betty and Bob Scarpo are also in Bonita Springs.

Bill Gallagher and Bill Burke, who left Pittsfield many years ago to operate a gas station in Venice, are now living in Fort Myers. Gallagher works at Smitty's Restaurant and Burke is manager of the Pan American Tire Co. Burke was out of town when we called. His wife informed us he is being transferred to Melbourne, which is on the East Coast.

George and Mary O'Boyle Poulsen are living in North Fort Myers. George has taken an early retirement from GE. Doris and Jim Waller built a home at Cypress Lakes in Fort Myers, and Mr. and Mrs. James Tagliaferro have a condominium in nearby Cape Coral.

Joe and Helen Woods and Helen's sister and brother-in-law, Margaret and Ed Williams, have rented Alice and Sue Coffeys' mobile home at Fairlane Acres in Bradenton for the winter. The Coffeys elected to remain in Pittsfield this winter.

Helping us organize Pittsfield Day March 14 are Vin McKeever, who plans to have a bus load from Marco and Naples, which is 125 miles south of Sarasota, and John Randall, who will handle the 30 or more who come from the northern section, Clearwater, Largo, Indian Rocks and St. Pete, which is 50 miles away.

3-31-76

Lawyer must drop Lee murder case

The attorney for a 16-year-old boy accused of murdering Donald A. Murray Sr. of Lee March 4 has notified authorities he must drop out of the case.

Public Defender Andrew T. Campoli notified juvenile probation and Lee District Court officials this week that the rules of the Massachusetts Defenders Committee prohibit him from serving any longer as lawyer for the young Lee resident, who faces possible trial on adult charges for the killing.

Campoli said that attorneys who work for the state Defenders Committee are barred from handling first-degree murder cases because of the large amount of time they consume.

Although the youth, whose name is being withheld because he is now charged only with juvenile delinquency, has not been charged formally with murder, Asst. Dist. Atty. William R. Flynn has already stated his intention of having the boy's case transferred to the adult side of the Lee court.

Chief Juvenile Probation Officer F Thomas Collins said today that a new lawyer will probably be appointed for the youth at his next scheduled court appearance before Special Justice Robert J. Donelan April 14. The judge appointed Campoli to represent the youth at his first court appearance March 0.

The need for a new attorney ill probably delay further a earing on Flynn's request for a ansfer of the case to adult ourt.

The boy is currently undergoing psychiatric tests at a state mental hospital in Waltham to determine his competency to stand trial.

He was arrested after being apprehended as a runaway in Simsbury, Conn., three days after the 71-year-old Murray was found dead by firemen and police called to his 5 Park St. apartment after his son returned home and found a bedroom fire there.

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2/10/76

Exploitation

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

As members of the Central Section of the Berkshire Women's Coalition, we object to the blatantly sexist ad campaigns for City Savings Bank's automatic teller, "Daisy," and Kay's "Half-Off" sale, currently in *The Eagle*. Both of these advertisers are using suggestive and exploitative material that is an insult to women.

In the City Savings Bank ad, we are told that we can "turn on Daisy," "use Daisy," and "try her." The machine portrays the image of the *perfect* female because "She's on duty 24 hours a day."

Each night in Kay's ads, half-dressed women with their demure looks and sexy poses take off different articles of clothing for sale.

Why must women's bodies and their uses be exploited to sell products and services? Why can't products and services be sold on their own merits instead of our degradation?

As women, we have more to offer the economics of our community than appealing bodies.

LYNN HICKS
80 High St.
Lee

Additional signers were Sybil Trudeau, Ellen LaMonte, Diane Haber, Andy Schiff, Sue Langman, Gail Bernstein, Jude Patoka, June Waldman, Cecelia R. Sansone, Genie Zust, Marie Kopicko, Peggy Blair, Barbara Joslyn, Jina Ford, Marianne Shepardson, Cynthia Lis Risley and Martha Q. Shirer.

Eagle 1-10-76

Joel Librizzi

LEE DISTRICT COURT Judge John J. Dwyer has decided to leave his private law practice and become a full-time judge at a $30,168 annual salary. The former legislator and one-time Pittsfield mayoral candidate is acting under a new law which required him to resign from the bench or leave private practice.

Jehovah Witnesses seek permission to build in Lee

LEE — Jehovah's Witnesses, a religious sect, has submitted applications to the town for permits to build a 60-foot by 30-foot Kingdom Hall on Summer Street land owned by Dr. Richard Palermo.

The Selectmen last night refused to act on the applications, saying the lot lacked the necessary frontage on Summer Street. Under the town bylaws, the group needs 100 feet of frontage on Summer Street, a town road. According to the plans submitted last night, there are only 30 feet.

In addition, the 30 feet of frontage that Dr. Palermo is giving to Jehovah's Witnesses would mean that his own property would have less than the 100 feet required. The Selectmen said they could not approve such a plan.

That section of Summer Street — Dr. Palermo lives at 135 Summer — is zoned residential with a minimum lot size of 20,000-square-feet. Religious organizations are allowed to build in R-20 zones.

Dr. Palermo could not be reached this morning. A tape recorded message at his office, also on his Summer Street property, said the office would be closed until June 16. There was no answer at his home.

Dr. Palermo, a chiropractor and a native of New Paltz, N.Y., opened his practice here in June 1971. His Summer Street property is on the heights in the northwestern section of town.

According to the plans submitted by Jehovah's Witnesses, the hall would be built on a 540-foot by 300-foot lot(connected to the 30 feet of frontage) owned by Dr. Palermo. A parking lot with spaces for 26 cars was also included in the plans.

Lee town-forest land sought as site for VFW clubhouse

LEE — The local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post will seek a meeting with the Conservation Commission to discuss the post's hopes of erecting a lodge hall on Golden Hill Road land that is part of the town forest.

John E. Farina, commander of Post 893, said Monday night his group was seeking three acres of land in the 63-acre tract which lies south of Golden Hill Road. Farina said the VFW hoped to put up a 100-foot by 60-foot building and to lay out a baseball field, volleyball court and horseshoe area nearby.

Farina presented his request for the land to the Selectmen Monday night. Chairman Edward F. Murray told him to consult with the Conservation Commission, and then draw up an article for the May town meeting.

Under state statute, any transfer of land controlled by a Conservation Commission must be approved by the legislature.

Farina said the VFW had also considered asking the town for land along Route 102. But the Selectmen said last month that that land was reserved for a skating rink, if funding from the state can be obtained.

"Land has been our main problem," Farina said. "We want the hall. We can raise the money to get it built, but we don't have any land to put it on."

The VFW has found a company that will install the shell of a building on a foundation built by the VFW. Farina said the VFW members would finish the interior of the structure.

Other business

In other business Monday night, the Selectmen:

— Received an application from David North for a permit to operate a used-car lot. He and his father operate North's Garage on Canal Street. The Selectmen said they would wait until Martin H. Deely was present next week before voting on the application.

— Heard a complaint from Edward M. Briggs, the town building inspector, that the roads at the Colonial Apartments on East Street had not been blacktopped, as stipulated by the town's subdivision laws. The Selectmen said they would ask the apartments' developers, Robert Garrity and Edward Slosek, to come to their meeting next Tuesday.

— Received the resignation of Kevin Finnerty of Cape Street as a District 3 town meeting representative. The Selectmen said they would try to fill the vacancy as soon as possible.

— Agreed that the town will have to purchase a new copying machine for the town office. The Selectmen said they will ask Town Clerk John J. Nagle to price different machines and to draw up an article for the May town meeting.

— Received a request from Rosemary Grady, a District 3 representative, for a curb on Lynn Ann Drive and for additional street lighting on Fairview Street. The Selectmen advised Mrs. Grady to get 10 supporting signatures for each request and to submit a petition to have the articles placed on the warrant for the May town meeting.

— Granted a permit for skeet shooting on Sundays at the Lee Sportsman's Club on Fairview Street for the remainder of the year.

— Received an invitation from the Stockbridge Selectmen to march in their May 23 parade honoring artist Norman Rockwell.

Mrs. LaDuke heads Lee Kiwani-Annes

LEE — Mrs. Dana P. LaDuke of Maritta Avenue was installed last week as the president of the Kiwani-Annes. She succeeds Mrs. Robert Bragdon.

Other new officers are Mrs. Richard Gore, vice president; Mrs. Gerald LeProvost, secretary, and Mrs. Donald Ingliss, treasurer.

George H. Bagnaschi of Fairview Street, governor-elect of the Kiwanis Club's New England district, was in charge of installation ceremonies held at the East Lee Inn. Lee and Larry Piekos of Housatonic Street provided entertainment.

Mrs. Merrick Bradbury, Kiwani-Annes project chairman, presented Kiwanis Club president Richard Gore with a $217.31 check to help the club's youth activities.

'Lil Anth...

Mrs. Moore named to Lee clerk-typist job

9-20-76

LEE — Mrs. Eleanor Moore of Davis Street has been named to the newly-created position of clerk/typist in the office of the town tax collector, the Selectmen announced last night.

More than 36 people applied for the position, which will pay $3.50 an hour for a 32-hour week. Mrs. Moore will begin on Feb. 1. The position will be reduced to 20-hours a week in July, when the town switches its water and sewer billing to a data processing system.

Mrs. Moore, 50, is now working at Simons Rock Early College in Great Barrington.

Lee to pay more to keep govt. at existing level

LEE — Each taxpayer here will have to pay an additional $4-a-year per $1,000 of assessed valuation through 1983 just to keep town programs and departments at their present levels, according to projections compiled by the Capital Outlay Committee.

Charlotte M. Davis of Pease Terrace last night attributed the increase primarily to inflation and warned that the projections could be low.

"The town's electric bill for the past three months has already jumped about 20 per cent," Mrs. Davis said. "We're just guessing on the rate of inflation and there's no guarantee that it won't be higher than we've projected."

The committee based its projections on an annual inflation rate of about 7 per cent.

According to the projections, the tax rate for the 1976-77 fiscal year will be $44.50 per $1,000 of assessed valuation. The tax rate this year is $40.50.

Under the projected $4-a-year increase, the tax rate would be $48.50 in 1977-78; $52.50 in 1978-79; $56.50 in 1979-80; $60.50 in 1980-81; $64.50 in 1981-82, and $68.50 in 1982-83.

Mrs. Davis warned that new projects would drive the tax rate even higher.

Projects involving major capital expenditures expected to be voted on in the next year include a new middle school and additional work at the Railroad Street office building.

Purchases expected to be undertaken within the next seven years include a land-fill compactor in 1980 and a water-filter system in 1982. The town's Department of Public Works has also prepared a master sewer plan for the town which will probably be brought before a town meeting later this year.

The Selectmen asked the Capital Outlay Committee last year to formulate projections for the next few years to aid in planning the town budget.

The committee was created in 1973 and is made up of a representative from each of the six town meeting districts and one member each from the Planning Board, Finance Committee and Assessors.

8

Lee Y roster is down 100 members

3/9/76

LEE — Lee YMCA officials are blaming the town's "shaky" economic situation for the loss of 100 active members in the year which ended Dec. 31.

The drop from 273 members on Dec. 31, 1974, to 173 members on Dec. 31, 1975, came despite an "all-out" door-to-door membership drive in September, according to the annual report prepared by James G. Wellspeak, the chairman of the Y's Management Committee.

"It was a year of financial uneasiness in the Lee community. Unemployment was high and the job security shaky for those who were employed...This resulted in a drastic drop in membership," Wellspeak said in the report.

"To generalize, most people were reluctant to invest in a yearly membership, but were willing to pay a little more for those programs they chose to participate in," the report continued.

Despite the membership loss, the Y managed to end the year with a deficit of $1,289, about 68 per cent less than originally expected.

Wellspeak said the Y was able to cut the deficit for four reasons: an austerity program in building and grounds maintenance; a $1,500 increase in the contribution of the Lee United Community Fund; the renting of space in the Y building on West Park Street by the Prospect Hill Nursery School, and the donation of the Southern Berkshire Community Action Center's van for local transportation.

The Y finished the year with income of $24,230, including a $15,500 grant from the United Community Fund, and expenses of $25,519.

The Y's uncertain economic situation and its limited membership in this town of 6,426 provided part of the impetus for the formation of a town Recreation Committee last fall.

The committee is expected to unveil a comprehensive town-sponsored recreation program to the Selectmen later this month. The program will be included in the warrant for the annual town meeting in May.

Wellspeak said in his report: "Should the town choose to support a community recreation program, the future of the Lee YMCA would be in jeopardy."

Because of the uncertainty, the Y decided to postpone the election of new officers until after the May town meeting. Wellspeak will continue as chairman, Charlotte P. Davis as vice chairman, Mrs. Peter Fraser as treasurer and Alexander F. Narducci as secretary.

The Berkshire Eagle, Friday, March 12, 1976 — 11

Lee car crash kills two

LEE — Two area men were killed here yesterday afternoon when their vehicle went out of control and struck a maple tree off East Street near its intersection with Maple Street.

Dead are Edward L. Gargan, 53, of Washington Mountain Road in Becket and Donald E. House, 42, of Hurlburt Road in Great Barrington.

A Lee police spokesman said this morning that the 1973 International Carryall, driven by Mr. Gargan, had been headed southeast on East Street yesterday afternoon at 5:25 when it went

Photo on Page 19

off the right shoulder of the road and struck a maple tree head-on.

The spokesman said the vehicle was demolished.

Lee police and firefighters came to the scene and removed the two men, both of whom were pinned in the wreckage. They were taken to the Pittsfield General unit of the Berkshire Medical Center by Lee ambulance. Mr. House died at 8:29 last night, Mr. Gargan died at 9:01.

Lee Police Officers Alan Sparks and John Winters were assisted by Registry of Motor Vehicles Inspector Richard F. Zucco in their investigation of yesterday's accident.

Frank V. McCarthy

TWO SOUTH COUNTY men died yesterday after this vehicle, a 1973 International Carryall, struck a tree off the south shoulder of East Street in Lee at 5:25 p.m. The driver, Edward L. Gargan, 53, of Washington Mountain Road in Becket, died at Pittsfield General unit, BMC, at 9:01 last night. His passenger, Donald E. House, 42, of Hurlburt Road in Great Barrington, died at the hospital at 8:29 p.m. They were taken to the hospital by Lee ambulance. Story on Page 11.

3/12/76

10/12/76

Lee reports record numbers of new voters

LEE — A total of 248 residents registered to vote here in the period between the Sept. 14 primary and last Tuesday, according to Town Clerk John J. Nagle, who also estimated that between 40 and 60 of the new voters were members of the Bible Speaks living at the former Lexia School.

Nagle said he thought the "unusually heavy" registration was due to strong interest in the Nov. 2 ballot questions on handguns, a public power authority and returnable bottles.

Between 22 and 30

"Most of the people who came in said they wanted to vote on the ballot questions. Most of them were between the ages of 22 and 30, and they didn't really talk much about the presidential election other than to say they thought they should vote," Nagle observed.

He said the registration was "the heaviest I've seen in the eight years I've been on the job." He added that the final day of registration, last Tuesday, was the busiest day of the three-week registration period.

"I did nothing but register people that day," Nagle said this morning.

Nagle said that registration in the last three weeks was even heavier than any period of 1971, when the voting age was lowered from 21 to 18. He estimated that between 200 and 250 people registered in all of 1971.

The new registrations push the total number of voters to 3,386.

Because Lee has representative town government, it is unlikely that the block of new Bible Speaks' votes will have any strong effect. The one area where the group may be able to exert strong influence is in contests for District 6 town meeting representatives.

Officials of Lenox have expressed the fear, usually in off-the-record conversations, that the large contingent of Bible Speaks members there could pack a town meeting, thus greatly affecting an important town vote.

10-20-76

Lee merchants complain of vandalism by youths

LEE — Late night vandalism on the corner of Main and Franklin streets has forced the owners of four stores to ask for additional police patrols of the area and the Selectmen to threaten imposing a curfew.

The vandalism, which is generally blamed on youths who gather to sit on the wall in front of the library, has been sporadic over the summer. But the merchants told the Selectmen Monday night of damage to their property last Friday night.

The merchants — Helen W. Clayson of the Upstairs Basement, Thomas Pentland of the Lee News Room, and Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Slaminsky of Ben's — said that on Friday night, eggs were thrown, the sidewalk in front of their stores discolored and their buildings damaged. They also said that Rossi's Restaurant was damaged.

Police Chief John J. Boyne confirmed yesterday that the area had been vandalized by vandals.

In addition to the damage, Mrs. Clayson complained of the youths "harassing" passersby, "especially women."

The Selectmen agreed that something had to be done about the situation. "It's not a new problem," said Joseph J. Castronova, who said that a curfew might have to be enforced if the problem persisted.

Mrs. Slaminsky said that "sitting on the wall is not the issue, it's the affect of the sitting."

Martin H. Deely agreed, and said that he too had sat on the wall as a youth. "You have to have someplace to meet at night," he said. "I guess the difference is that our behavior was different."

While stating that "only a small number of youths" are responsible for the vandalism, the Selectmen said they would ask the Police Department to patrol the area more frequently at night.

A Lee resident has been held in contempt by a federal District Court judge in Boston for refusing to testify before a grand jury probing gambling operations in this area.

Ralph D. Conroy of 71 Summer St. appeared before Judge W. Arthur Garrity Jr. yesterday morning because of his failure to answer questions before a grand jury in Springfield July 13.

Judge Garrity ordered Conroy to surrender himself by Monday to federal authorities to face possible imprisonment, although it is probable he can escape confinement if he agrees to testify.

Federal Prosecutor George Kelly Jr. of the Organized Crime Strike Force office in Boston said he could not comment on what gambling investigation Conroy is involved in, but it was learned that his grand jury appearance was in connection with raids and the alleged seizure of gambling records and money last January.

Ralph D. Conroy

FBI agents and state police on Jan. 4 raided 19 locations throughout the state, all but one in Western Massachusetts and 10 in Berkshire County.

Antigambling statutes

It was understood that the alleged evidence they seized would be presented to a grand jury in an attempt to gain indictments charging violations of federal antigambling statutes aimed at large-scale illegal gambling operations.

Federal authorities said after the raids, which took place in this county in Pittsfield, Dalton, Lenox, Lee and North Adams, that all 19 homes and businesses involved throughout the state were parts of "a combined organization which grossed close to six figures on a weekly basis." Conroy's house was not one of those searched.

Kelly said Conroy could be jailed by Judge Garrity until he says he wishes to testify, until the grand jury's term expires or for 18 months, whichever comes first.

The prosecutor said he could not disclose why Conroy had been called before the grand jury, but said the man refused to testify even after being offered a grant of immunity from prosecution.

Contacted last night at his home in Lee, Conroy said he is due in Boston Monday at noon to begin his confinement on the contempt citation.

Done nothing wrong

In regard to his refusal to testify, Conroy said he would be glad to testify about anything that he had done wrong himself, but that he refused to testify against anyone else.

"I have done nothing that they can indict me for. There are no charges against me," he said. "I believe that a law which allows the court to send a man to jail, even though the authorities can bring no charge against him except contempt of court, is an unconstitutional law. I would like the judge to explain that law to Thomas Jefferson.

In a reference to Daniel Schorr, CBS correspondent alleged to have given a secret government document to a newspaper, Conroy said, "They didn't jail Schorr for refusing to testify before Congress. They wouldn't jail me if I was that famous."

Conroy is a former Eagle reporter who left the newspaper in 1972 to become a free-lance writer.

Bob's Trucking
Have you done your fall cleaning? Call 684-1286 to have your rubbish picked up — Adv.

Lox-Bagels-Eggs
for brunch, served at Samel's Deli, 115 Elm St. — Adv.

Monday's Special
Creme permanents $6.98 complete at Mayfair, 443-6273 — Adv.

Teddy's Home Club
Country Weekend, Fri. Country Travelers, Sat. Nashville Echoes. Formerly Larry's, now under new management — Adv.

Remember Angelina's
Original sub sandwich will be 60c every Sun. from 12 to 6 p.m. 24 Dalton Ave. & 97 W. Housatonic St. 443-9875—Adv. 443-9875 — Adv.

Country music at Secum Brook every Sat. night — Adv.

Dancing VFW Post 9566. Sat. eve 9 to 1 — Adv.

Dancing 9 to 1 every Sat. Music by "Thru the Years" at the Italian American Club. 203 Newell St. Members & guest — Adv.

Dancing to Red Robinson playing at the Elks Lodge 9 to 1 tonight. Public invited — Adv.

Dancing Franco American Club. Sat. 9:30 to 12:30. Sun. 7 to 10. Music both nights by the Good Old Times — Adv.

Men's & ladies' London Fog raincoats. Men's jackets, hats & umbrellas. Besse-Clarke — Adv.

Pick your own potatoes. Final weekend, Sat. and Sun. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 5c per pound. Bring your own containers. Pease, Farm Produce Inc., 250 Rte. 22, 4 miles north of Lebanon Springs in Stephentown, N.Y. 1—518-733-5515 — Adv.

Eagle 10/16/76

town meeting in the form of two articles, would stipulate that no shop be set up for strictly retail sales, meaning that some "manual skill or dexterity" be used. There would also be restrictions set up on the basis of how the business affects the neighborhood in terms of traffic and appearance because of signs.

The Selectmen indicated they would attempt two amendments to the bylaw. The first change, pushed by Joseph J. Castronova, would have the Selectmen in charge of enforcing the new law. The Planning Board article would have the Zoning Board of Appeals in charge of enforcement.

The Selectmen said they should be in charge because they could more easily enforce the law since they have the building inspector working under them. They also said that a Zoning Board of Appeals hearing included too much bureaucratic paperwork.

The Selectmen also said they would propose that the license granted a business in a residential neighborhood be reviewed annually. "It's a matter of control," said Chairman Martin H. Deely. "If we review it every year, then people realize the right to operate that business is not irrevocable."

The Planning Board indicated it would support the annual renewal of the permits, but was more reluctant to shift enforcement to the Selectmen from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

RECEIVING PUBLIC comments at last night's Lee Planning Board hearing on proposed changes to the town bylaw are board members, from left, James Burns, Dana P. LaDuke and Jon E. Larson. Fourteen people attended the hearing, which was on businesses in residential neighborhoods. The changes will be on the warrant of a Nov. 18 town meeting.

Thirty-eight stories above the ground, Wayne McConlogue of Newburyport and Donald Lord of Wilmington secure final beam on Boston's newest skyscraper. US flag and pine tree, traditions in such topping-off ceremonies, were hoisted to top of Sixty State Street yesterday. (Globe photo by David Ryan)

SOUTH STREET in Pittsfield looking south near South Mountain Road was a slippery place this morning before sanding.

Joel Librizzi

Eagle 10/25/76

Lee post gives Gordon 2 full-time jobs

LEE — An announcement from Kimberly-Clark Corp. headquarters last week said that Milton J. Gordon's appointment as senior mill manager of its four Schweitzer Division plants here would be on an "interim" basis.

The appointment, in which he replaces Frederick C. Hartwell, will be temporary because of the position Gordon now holds and the schedule it forces him to keep. As the manager of mill operations for the Schweitzer Division plants in Spotswood, N.J., Ancram, N.Y., and Mt. Holly Springs, Pa., as well as Lee, Gordon is on the road a lot.

News Analysis

For example, he spent last Monday and Tuesday here. But Wednesday, Thursday (the day of the announcement of his new post) and Friday, Gordon was on the road. He returned to his Richmond Avenue home late Friday, spent Saturday there, but was off again at 7 Sunday morning to attend a three-day seminar in Boston.

The post of senior mill manager for the four local mills is a full-time job, as is Gordon's other position as manager of Schweitzer mill operations. Gordon realizes the demands of the local job; he held it from 1964 to 1971, before being promoted.

Milton J. Gordon

Has heavy schedule

When Gordon was promoted to oversee all the Schweitzer operations, Hartwell was named to the top Lee job. He will now assume a job on Gordon's staff as a manufacturing specialist, a post Schweitzer spokesman Gary Morton says is a "lateral promotion."

Morton adds that Hartwell, a Pittsfield resident who received his degree from Yale University in 1945, "has 25 years of technical papermaking experience and experience in quality control and manufacturing control. He clearly has the tickets for his new job."

The leadership shakeup comes at time when the Lee operations are running at less than capacity, with two of the eight papermaking machines operating on only five-day schedules. The other six machines are running seven days a week.

Things have improved at the Lee mills over the last year, with employment climbing from 568 in the second quarter of 1975 to 654 now. But that is down from the employment figures of August 1976, when 689 people were taking home paychecks from the mill.

Morton says that "the change comes about because of divisional needs for developmental manufacturing expertise as a result of recent deaths and retirements." That means Hartwell will take the place of two longtime Schweitzer employes.

But as another Schweitzer official, who asked that his name not be used, said: "The mills just don't have the orders now. Business is just not what it should be. The pickup in business that was expected just hasn't come. The mill has been off in business for the last two years."

Another employe says, "The business with Fred is just like with a losing team in baseball. If the team is losing, you can't fire 25 players. So you change the manager. The Kimberly-Clark people just figured it was time for a change."

Susan B. Walsh

DEDICATION of the renovated Academy Building in Lenox Saturday brought back the only surviving members of the last class to graduate from the academy in 1909. They are Mrs. Edward Bligh (former Alice Mahanna) of Pittsfield, standing at left rear, and Jane Peters Heathfield of Lenox. Both are 86 years old. Standing below at right is Richard M. Ludlow, 69, who attended school here about 60 years ago. Ludlow, who lives in Georgia, was in town for the wedding of his niece, Nini Brooke of Lenox. An estimated 150 people attended.

Smith leaves historic group as society changes approach

Donald S. Smith, executive director of the Berkshire County Historical Society since October, 1967, has resigned that post effective June 30.

The resignation was presented and accepted at the society's executive board meeting Monday afternoon. Cooley Graves Crane of Dalton, society president, notified the remaining board members by letter.

Smith explained his decision that it was "time to move on" by recalling that he "came here as a museum specialist" from the curatorship of the Schenectady (N.Y.) Museum.

"I'm interested in how historical objects can be used for teaching and for exhibition. I'm a museum person. But it appears that maintenance of a museum will not be the major thrust of the society in the future."

Mrs. Crane agreed. In a statement issued late yesterday, she said, "The society has reached the point where it wants to be more than simply the operator of a museum. We are interested in preservation, but we want to involve ourselves in other, related fields — education, oral history, publications and other countywide activities."

Change in philosophy

The "alteration in direction and philosophy of the society," which Smith said was a major factor in his decision, was a natural consequence of the society's decision to sell three historic buildings it owned to finance the purchase of Arrowhead, the home of Herman Melville when he was writing "Moby-Dick."

Joel Librizzi

Donald S. Smith

One of the houses sold was the 113 East Housatonic St. home of Miss Margaret Hall, founder and first president of the group, who bequeathed it to the society. Smith had recommended purchase of the Hall house and it was his suggestion that his family accept living quarters on the top floor as part of his salary that made the move economically possible.

But however he may have felt about the society's decision to relinquish the exhibit space represented by its three historic structures, Goodrich house, the Hall house, and Citizen's Hall in Interlaken, "He established us in Arrowhead and saw us through that first year. We owe him a great debt," Mrs. Crane said.

Both Mrs. Crane and Smith singled out as a high point of his nine years as director winning accreditation of the society's museum by the American Association of Museums. Only the Clark Institute in Williamstown shared that honor in Berkshire County.

Second on Smith's list was receiving the 1973 award of merit of the American Association for state and local history. The award, he said, is the highest given by the society.

In her statement, Mrs. Crane said, "He is an able director and we shall miss him....we have grown immensely under his leadership."

The board of directors will act on Smith's resignation March 21. He has not yet formulated specific plans for the future, he said.

Smith graduated with distinction in 1950 from Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn., with a bachelor of arts degree in American culture.

After graduation, he entered an in-service training program with the New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, N.Y., and that year was named assistant curator at Old Sturbridge Village.

During his two years at Sturbridge he met his wife, the former Bertyne Rice. They have three children.

Smith was picked as director of the Schenectady Museum in 1952, and remained in that post until he came to Pittsfield.

Mrs. Crane said a search committee will be formed soon to select Smith's successor.

2-4-77

Donald I. Fillio 1/21

Filio named vice president of Static, Inc.

LEE — Donald I. Fillio of Chapel Street has been named vice president of operations for Static Inc. by Anthony Q. Testone, president.

Fillio, a lifelong resident of Lee, has been plant manager of the company since 1975. He studied purchasing management at the University of Massachusetts and Western New England College.

As vice president of operations, Fillio will be responsible for all internal operations. Static Inc. is a manufacturer of devices to measure and neutralize static electricity in industrial, commercial and business equipment. Under Fillio's direction, the company recently moved into its new plant and offices on Route 102.

Fillio and his wife, the former Marjorie Griffin, have one son.

12/3/76
Eagle

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

STATIC, INC. of Lee's new plant on Route 102 was officially dedicated today. The 120-foot by 60-plant is four times larger than the firm's former space in Lenox Dale. The expansion will eventually mean the hiring of eight new employes. The firm now employs 14. The new plant cost $160,000. The firm designs and manufactures equipment to measure and neutralize static electricity.

Vol. 85 — No. 164 Pittsfield, Massachusetts, Friday, November 19, 1976

The continuing cost of silence

Conroy considers himself legal machinery's victim

By James E. Overmyer

Ralph D. Conroy, the Lee resident who went to jail rather than testify before a federal grand jury investigating gambling, has been locked up for a month now.

The 36-year-old Conroy, who went from free-lance writer and security guard one day to jail inmate the next in mid-October, still refuses to reveal what he may know about illegal bookmaking operations in the Berkshires.

And, in an interview at the local House of Correction on Second Street yesterday, he said he remains "furious" at the federal laws which allowed U.S. prosecutors to have him jailed for an uncertain length of time for contempt of court because of his refusal to testify.

"My attitude hasn't changed," said Conroy. "My situation is much worse than that of anyone charged with a crime. A guy in on a two- or three-year sentence can possibly be paroled within a year, but I have no chance of parole, and no way to earn good time."

"I feel," he said, "as if I've been mugged in the backwaters of the American legal system."

* * * *

Conroy, a former Eagle reporter who left the newspaper in 1972 to try his hand at free-lance writing, was held in contempt after refusing to testify before a grand jury in Springfield in July, even though offered a grant of immunity from prosecution.

The effect of the grant of immunity was to remove Conroy's right to claim Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination, basically forcing him to answer all questions put to him before the grand jury, or be held in contempt.

Conroy said the information the Justice Department is seeking was acquired in the course of his research for a novel on gambling, which may not be written now, if ever, because he has destroyed all his notes as a precaution against investigators seizing them.

"People showed me things and told me never to tell," he said, "so I can't go back on my word."

"Congress, in its infinite wisdom, put its stamp of approval on an act of betrayal" when it established the immunity process, Conroy added.

Conroy had no kind words for the FBI, the primary investigators of the gambling situation.

"If I can find these things out, it seems FBI agents with millions of the people's dollars, wiretaps and other means should be able to come up with them, too," he said.

Neither the FBI nor federal prosecutors have contacted him since he was jailed, first at the Norfolk County House of Correction in Dedham, then here.

* * * *

The grand jury before which Conroy refused to testify is scheduled to be in session until next March, but it could be extended for six months or he could be called before another grand jury, moves which could keep him confined even beyond next spring.

His lawyer, Ralph Cianflone of Pittsfield, said yesterday that "collateral" attempts at gaining his client's freedom, through the American Civil Liberties Union and the Washington-based Coalition to End Grand Jury Abuse are under way, but no change in Conroy's status is seen in the immediate future.

Meanwhile, barred from pursuing other activities, Conroy reads a great deal. "Now I've got time for the big novels," he said. "I've read 'Shogun,' which is about 1,200 pages, and maybe I'll get to 'Anna Karenina.' "

He also said he is collaborating on a novel, mostly just to pass time, with inmate Peter Remick, already a published author, who is in the jail temporarily awaiting trial on a burglary charge.

"We've written a real potboiler of a novel, a take-off on the 'real tough cop' books," Conroy said.

Meanwhile, Conroy refused to become too optimistic about an early release from what is, in the near future at least, an indefinite sentence.

"Ernest Hemingway said 'Time is the least we have,' " he said. "It's a big weapon to use against you."

Joel Librizzi

PRISONER Ralph D. Conroy stands outside his cell at jail.

County Commission asks judge to free jailed Lee writer

By Ralph E. Brown

A Lee writer jailed for refusing to testify before a federal grand jury yesterday won the support of the County Commissioners in his fight for freedom.

The Commissioners said they would formally ask federal Judge W. Arthur Garrity to release Ralph D. Conroy, who was imprisoned last month, in time for him to be home by Christmas.

The action came at the request of Conroy's wife, Jeanne Conroy, who wrote a letter to the Commissioners asking them to use their "influence" with the judge to win her husband's release.

Conroy is now serving an indefinite sentence in the Berkshire County House of Correction, which falls under the jurisdiction of the County Commissioners.

The Commissioners may parole persons sentenced there by Massachusetts courts for terms up to one year. But because Conroy was jailed by a federal court, they have no power to parole him.

Commissioner Peter G. Arlos, D-Pittsfield, volunteered to draft the letter to Garrity. He said he would have it prepared by the Commissioners' meeting next week.

"The governor pardons hardened criminals for Christmas," said Commission Chairman John J. Pignatelli, D-Lenox. "So I think a judge ought to release a free-lance writer who was just picking up information for a book."

Conroy, a former Eagle reporter, said he would not give information to the grand jury because what he knew was acquired on a pledge of secrecy in the course of doing research for a novel on gambling.

State police sources said that whatever Conroy's reasons for getting involved with suspected bookmakers, they believe he was an active participant in the group under investigation.

Officers familiar with the investigation said Conroy was believed to have been a "messenger" or courier who transported bookmaking information among the principals involved.

This particular kind of involvement made him especially valuable as a potential grand jury witness, the police said.

Eagle 12/8/76

County asks judge to free Lee writer

The County Commissioners yesterday formally asked U.S. Judge W. Arthur Garrity to free Ralph D. Conroy, a Lee writer jailed for refusing to testify before a grand jury.

The action came in response to an appeal last week by Conroy's wife, Jeanne, that her husband be released in time for Christmas.

"We are not attempting to interfere with your jurisdiction," said the letter to Garrity, written by Commissioner Peter G. Arlos, D-Pittsfield, "but we are concerned about Mr. Conroy and his family as well as the effect of this sentence upon the image of law-enforcement officials and the judiciary."

Conroy, who was imprisoned in November, had been asked to testify about alleged gambling activities in the Berkshires. Because he refused, even though granted immunity from prosecution, he was sentenced to an indeterminate term in jail.

"We are all well aware that there is substantial question about the constitutionality of compelling a person to become a witness against himself by the granting of immunity," the Commissioners' letter said.

"The federal government has at its disposal a vast apparatus to ferret out crime. We find it difficult to believe that a writer can obtain information that is unavailable to law-enforcement officials," the letter said.

"Some members of the County Commission who have known Mr. Conroy as a reporter and as a citizen of the county recognize him as a man of objectivity, fairness and humility. We believe that the courts should exhibit these same qualities in viewing his situation," the letter said.

"We hope," the letter added, "that Mr. Conroy can be returned to his family before Christmas."

Conroy, a former Eagle reporter, said he would not give information to the grand jury because what he knew was acquired on a pledge of secrecy in the course of doing research for a novel on gambling.

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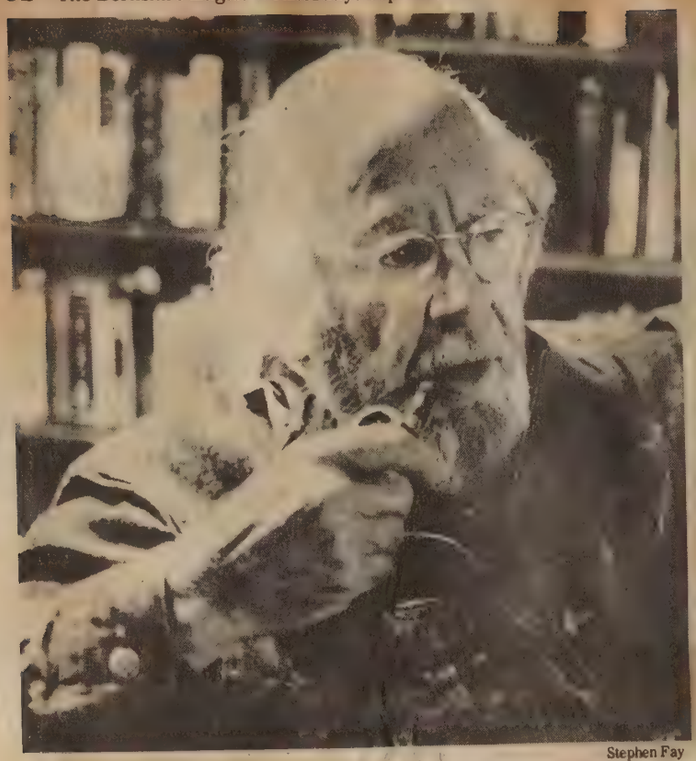


Stephen Fay

LENOX AUTHOR William L. Shirer relaxes in his living room.

Shirer i'

Just-publi

By Stephen Fay

LENOX — When can one decently undertake to write one's memoirs?

Robert Graves, the English poet and novelist, got that task out of the way early by writing his autobiography when he was 34. He was, perhaps, in a hurry.

E.B. White, the longtime spirit of "The New Yorker," observed in the preface to his literary memoirs that "a man who is over 50 is sure that he has only 20 minutes to live."

William L. Shirer, 72, has lived too long with deadlines to feel a need to rush into writing his recollections. The pre-eminent American journalist, who makes his home here off Main Street, climbs the stairs each morning to his second floor study to begin another day of research and writing. For Shirer, the time to write his memoirs is between 9 and 3. He's been at it for five years.

The veteran journalist and author of "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich" daily confronts a semi-organized sea of documents, letters, photographs and aging reels of film in the form of a litter of scribbled notes from himself to himself await decipherment on chairs, end tables and desks.

Letters to the Editor

Pesty wildlife

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Regarding the killing of three beaver at Wild Acres, I would like to voice my approval of the action taken by the authorities. All too often private owners' pleas for help to control pesty wildlife (as in my case this past spring) are ignored.

Last spring, a beaver felled a tree within 30 feet of my home. The tree had been planted a few years ago, had a growth of about 20 feet and was planted for a reason.

When I reported my loss, I was laughed at and told that a great favor had been done by the beaver. I, of course, felt differently. Not only did they leave the tree after it was down so that I had to absorb the cost of cleaning up the mess but I suffered the loss of a beautiful shade tree as well.

I enjoy all the wildlife around me and protect it in every way. But when it causes damage to private property, I am all in favor of its control in whatever manner the authorities see fit to deal with the situation.

(Mrs.) MARION A. RUSSELL
Beaver Brook Road
West Becket

Throwaway hazard

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

In response to an Oct. 20 letter in which it was suggested that there might be health hazards in reusing soft-drink bottles as called for in the proposed Massachusetts "bottle bill," I would observe that Oregon enacted similar legislation four years ago and today there is no evidence to support the idea that the people of Oregon, by doing so, have jeopardized their health.

Further, if there is any health hazard involved with soft-drink bottles, it is the broken throwaway bottles which litter our landscape.

In Oregon, with enactment of bottle-bill legislation, the beverage-container litter has decreased by 83 per cent — which is substantial evidence that a vote in support of Question 6 will prevent many kids from ending up in the emergency room with lacerations.

FRANKLIN K. PADDOCK, M.D.
369 South St.
Pittsfield

Editor's Note

In a letter from Laurence Lattizzori, published Oct. 19, the phrase "$60 billion in throwaway beverage containers" should have read, "60 billion throwaway beverage containers." The error was *The Eagle's*, not Mr. Lattizzori's.

Other letters are printed on the page opposite.

1-20-77

N.H. man to manage Morgan House in Lee

LEE — Anthony Ferrelli of Franconia, N.H., has been named manager of the Morgan House by Maria Cole Devore, owner of the inn.

Prior to assuming the position at the Morgan House, Ferrelli owned and managed the Franconia Inn. His hotel career began with the Sheraton Corp. at the 1964 New York World's Fair and he has served as manager to several inns in New Hampshire and Boston. Ferrelli attended Boston University and Northeastern University where he studied business administration.

Plans which Ferrelli has for the Morgan House include opening a tearoom, providing quiet entertainment in the cocktail lounge and adding several new items to the menu.

Ferrelli and his wife, the former Ellen Armstrong of Falmouth, have two children.

Sheila Mahan

Anthony Ferrelli

KATHY A. NAVENTI

PETER W. BROWN

Peter W. Brown, who has managed the Stockbridge office of Lee Savings Bank since its opening in October of1974, will return to the Lee office and assume full responsibility for marketing and customer development. Kathy A. Naventi, a Lee native, has been promoted to manager of the Stockbridge office.

Miss Naventi joined Lee Savings in 1973, as a teller, and has served as Assistant Branch Manager of the Stockbridge office since its opening. Brown joined Lee Savings Bank in 1972, and was promoted to Assistant Treasurer in 1974.

Ed.
11/24/76

Mark Mitchell

RECEIVING the Lee Junior PeeWee Football League's first Jim Mougin Memorial Trophies are Mickey Eisenberg, second from left, and Tommy Briggs, fourth from left. Presenting the trophies, named for the former league coach who was killed while hunting last year, is Helen Mougin, Jim's mother. On the far left is Stan Daoust, Eisenberg's coach, and on the far right is Bob Broderick, Briggs's coach. The award was made last night.

17

LEE

Harris Photo

Fifth grader Chuck Brighenti and Sandy Cummings of Lenox, have collaborated on a design that is expected to soon appear on the town flag (see story, page 1).

William Tarmey

Former Lee man heads Dallas division of restaurant chain

LEE — William Tarmey, the son of Francis J. Tarmey of Lynn Ann Drive, has been named manager of restaurant operations in the Dallas division for Howard Johnson's Restaurants.

Tarmey, who attended Berkshire Community College, UMass, and Stonehill College, first joined the company in 1958 as a summer cook. He rejoined the company in 1967 as an assistant manager in the Boston division. He trained as an area manager in 1972.

He lives with his family in Richardson, Tex.

Lee acreage proposed for industrial use

1-19-77

LEE — The Planning Board Wednesday night heard a proposal presented on behalf of the R.U.R. Realty Trust to divide a 10-acre parcel of land off Route 102 and Pleasant Street for sale for commercial and industrial use.

Robert E. Hoogs, a member of Robert G. Brown and Associates Inc., of Pittsfield, represented R.U.R. Realty, which is currently in receivership.

According to Hoogs, arrangements are being made to sell about half of the property, including a storage warehouse, to Schweitzer Division of Kimberly-Clark Corp. There are no perspective buyers for the other lots at present.

The property is bounded on the north by the Massachusetts Turnpike and on the east by the Housatonic River.

Several of the proposed lots, including that being negotiated for by Schweitzer, are in a floodplain zone and must meet certain bylaw requirements. It will be necessary for the proposal to be considered by the Board of Appeals and a variance granted before the division can occur, according to Atty. Kearons J. Whalen III, a receiver for R.U.R. Realty.

Whalen also said that the receivers in charge of the property "have to be assured that the remaining property will be sold, or would not be able to complete this sale." Schweitzer has received the purchase sale agreement, however.

In other action, the Planning Board heard a request to convert a piece of property on Center Street in the business-multiuse district for combination business-residential use.

James Burns, Lee representative of the 208 Water Quality Control Group, a Berkshire County group studying the Housatonic River, gave a brief report on the progress of the 208 water quality study.

The Planning Board also discussed the scheduled visit of Charles Kusik on behalf of the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission on Jan. 24. Kusick will review changes in the zoning bylaw to bring it into compliance with Chapter 808 which is an addition to Chapter 41 of the General laws of Massachusetts, pertaining to zoning.

Coricidin C Tablets $1.89 value Now 99c at McClelland Rexall Drug. — Adv.

Cooking classes set in Middlefield

MIDDLEFIELD — Mrs. Jonathan Jones will teach a six-week 4-H mini course in cooking, beginning Monday at the school. The classes will be from 1 to 4 p.m. and is open to both boys and girls, 9 years and older.

Mrs. Jones will be assisted by Mrs. William R. Denault.

'Mini-mall' planned at former Lee store

LEE — The building that formerly housed Nejaimes's Supermarket on Housatonic Street will be turned into a "mini-mall" featuring from six to 12 retail craft stores, Nabih Nejaime told the Planning Board last night.

There will be no exterior changes to the building, meaning a permit from the town is not required. Town Building Inspector Edward M. Briggs must inspect all interior changes for safety.

Nejaime, who owns the property, said in an interview this morning that renovation work will begin in the near future, and that the mall will open sometime between March 1 and June 1. He said there are now six definite tenants, and that space is still available. Crafts sold at the mall will include jewelry, leather, woodwork, glass, pottery and oriental rugs, he said. Plans also call for a fast food operation.

Nejaime was accompanied to the meeting last night by Gary Baril of Lenox, the business manager of the Bible Speaks, who said he is helping with plans for the store, and James Chase of Prospect Street, a parishioner of the Bible Speaks who will manage the mall for Nejaime.

While saying that several of the mall's craftsmen will be members of the Bible Speaks, Baril stressed the mall "was not a Bible Speaks business. We have never set up a business and we are not doing it here," Baril said.

He said his role was merely "to help with the plans for the mall." He added that the mall would "allow craftspeople in the local community to have a place to sell their goods. It is hard for an individual to set up a store to sell their goods in."

Baril said he "would like to have some of our people have space at the mall, but the business has nothing to do with the Bible Speaks. When you have several hundred people in a community, then they have to have something to do."

Nejaime said he had had the idea for the crafts mall "for several years" and discussed the concept with Baril when the Bible Speaks administrator approached Nejaime about employing people at his Stockbridge market.

"Gary's concern as an administrator at the Bible Speaks is get his people working. We talked about the idea. I said it sounded good, but that I didn't really know how to set it up. Gary offered his services," Nejaime said.

Nejaime said he had met Chase, the superintendent of the mall, through Baril.

Baril said this morning he had "known Chase for several years and he goes to church here."

The 10,000-square-foot building has been vacant since Jan. 1, when Kaufman Brothers closed down the retail toy outlet it had operated there since late September.

The building housed Nejaime's Lee Market from November 1972 until March 1976. It was constructed in 1965 by C. Marcel Brunell for his laundry and dry cleaning business. It has also been the site of a car salesroom run by Aldo Delmolino of Stockbridge.

Lee firemen retrieve part of town history

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — An old member of the Lee Fire Department's family has returned to the fold after a 30-year hiatus.

A vintage 1881 steamer that was the department's property through World War II has recently been purchased from the Longmeadow Fire Department. Local fire fighters won't say how much they paid for the horse-drawn steamer.

As best the current members of the department can trace the history, the steamer left Lee during the war years for parts unknown. The men of the department didn't know what happened to it until 1971, when members of the Longmeadow department came to Lee to research the steamer's history and to attempt to find some missing hoses and lights.

Then last year, the Longmeadow department decided it didn't want the piece of equipment and asked the Lee department if it wanted to make a deal. Lee jumped at the chance.

The steamer is now at the Central Fire Station and members of the department are fixing it up as a project in the town's bicentennial year. Facing a similar problem as Longmeadow did back in 1971, the firefighters are not sure they can ascertain specifically what equipment originally adorned the steamer. They hope anyone with old pictures or who have memories of the steamer will contact members of the department.

They are also looking for the steamer's original accessories, including a boiler light, other lights, and hose nozzles.

First ordered in 1881 from the old Clapp Jones Co. of Hudson, N.Y., the steamer resided in East Lee with the Forest Engine Co. until 1912 when the Central Fire Station on Main Street was built.

The steamer was an integral part of the department's fire fighting apparatus through at least 1916, when the department purchased its first automotive trucks.

The Forest Engine Co. was the oldest

Lee firemen
Continued on Page 5

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

VINTAGE 1881 steamer is back home in Lee at the Central Fire Station. Originally purchased by the former Forest Engine Co. of East Lee, the engine left the area during World War II. The Lee Fire Department recently bought it back from Longmeadow. Members of the Lee department are seeking information about the steamer's original equipment.

Lee firemen retrieve steamer

Continued from Page 1

of the five companies that once served the town and was the first to purchase a piece of equipment — an old hand pumper in 1855. The steamer was part of the new breed of equipment that began to replace the hand pumper here in 1879.

The Forest Engine Co. gained initial preeminance among the fire companies because it serviced East Lee, which after the Civil War was a thriving paper and manufacturing center.

Name in the News

Clerk of two courts

GREAT BARRINGTON

As the newly appointed temporary clerk of Southern Berkshire District Court, Franklyn Sturgis will have to perform double duty as he continues to serve as clerk of the Lee District Court. But Sturgis, 58, a lean and affable Lee native with a weakness for his wife and the tenor saxophone, is an admirable candidate for double duty: he is self-effacing enough for two people.

"I hate to have people think I'm a martyr," Sturgis said yesterday as he confirmed that neither a salary raise nor reimbursement for his mileage will be forthcoming as he travels between Lee and Great Barrington for court sessions.

Sturgis said that the additional work generated by his appointment Saturday to the Southern Berkshire clerkship by Chief Justice Samuel Zoll will be absorbed by the court personnel he supervises.

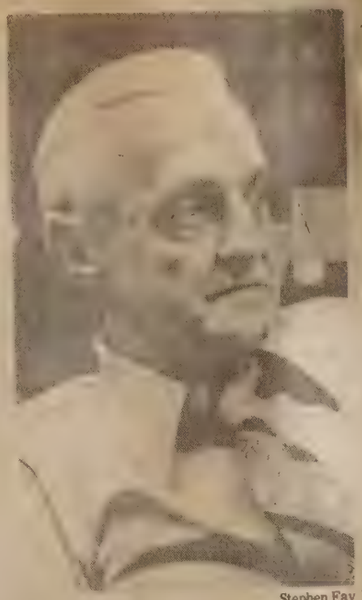
"I don't think I'm doing anything wonderful," Sturgis said.

What Sturgis will be doing is pretty much what he's been doing all along since 1956, only more of it.

The son of former State Rep. Franklin L. Sturgis of Lee, a singular civic leader in Lee who served two terms in the state House of Representatives before his death in 1955, the younger Sturgis was appointed clerk of the Lee District Court 20 years ago by former Gov. Christian A. Herter.

His career up until that appointment was an active one, consisting of equal parts of music, travel and toil. A tenor sax player since his days at Lee High School, Sturgis played with the old Eddy Thomas Band in clubs and joints in the tri-state area from 1935, with interruptions, until 1970.

That was weekend work, however, and the bread and cheese money was earned at the Eagle Mill of Smith Paper, Inc., where he rose to the rank of foreman in the inspection department. In 1941, playing a weekend engagement at the Mountain View Motel on Route 23 in Great Barrington, Sturgis met his wife to be, the former Lille Victoria Knapp of Colebrook, N.H.



Stephen Fay

Sturgis: Music, travel and toil

"I'll always hold it close to my heart," he said of Great Barrington, in honor of the fateful meeting that took place there.

They married in 1942, shortly after he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Sturgis was assigned to the battleship USS Nevada and he saw a good deal of action in the Pacific theater of operations and along the French coast.

He joined his father in running a combination gas station and general store at East Lee Corners after leaving the Navy in 1946. During those 10 years he continued to play with Eddy Thomas's four-piece band. He also fathered two children, a daughter, Mrs. Richard Mougin of Lee, and a son, Frank Sturgis V, nicknamed "Five," who lives at home.

Upon his appointment to the clerk's post at Lee District Court, where he succeeded retiring Clerk John T. Waddock, Sturgis gave up the gas station (which was torn down shortly after to make way for the approaches to the local turnpike interchange), and took up a career as a public servant.

In 1957 he became the local veteran's agent, a post he held until 1963. He became a deputy sheriff in 1960, adding to his workday and his income by serving civil papers; he said he does not serve criminal warrants.

In 1964, Sturgis, a Republican, was elected by the Selectmen and the local School Committee to serve out the unexpired portion of the term of School Committeeman Albert N. Nettleton after the latter resigned his seat on the board. Sturgis ran for the post the following spring but was defeated.

He said yesterday that he would be pleased to ultimately be appointed full-time clerk of courts, but he allowed that the future of the county's courts and clerks is still uncertain.

"It's hard to say what's going to happen," he said.

He said he did not anticipate initiating significant changes in the existing set-up in the Great Barrington court.

Philip F. Heller, an attorney with the county Public Defenders office, said yesterday that he has had many dealings with Sturgis in the Lee and Great Barrington courts and expressed pleasure with his appointment to the clerk's post.

"He's conscientious," Heller said, "he's a pleasant man to get along with. He's just a good man."

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

OLD LEE Railroad Station has been renovated by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Sullivan. The building now houses the Barrett Oil Co. run by Sullivan, and Iron Horse Realty Co., run by Mrs. Sullivan. Further renovations are planned.

Toni Handy

FAMILY PORTRAIT of the Werner Wyrzykowski family of South Lee shows Werner; Sooja, who arrived last week from Korea, and Okja, who is a Korean war bride.

Lee couple, once helped by others,

Korean girl joins South Lee family

Continued from Page 1

wasn't that hard," he observes. He was granted political asylum at the American embassy. Church World Service, a Protestant organization, arranged for him to come to the United States in 1956.

At the time of the Korean War, although barely able to speak or write English, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served for six years, including a period of re-enlistment, in Korea. In Seoul he met and married Okja, at that time a sewing-machine operator from Taegu. They lived in Korea for two more years before coming to South Lee.

South Lee was the home of Leona and Olin Manchester, who were the sponsors, through the Episcopal Church, of Werner's immigration. The Manchesters, now deceased, gave a piece of land adjoining their own property to the Wyrzykowskis. Their close friend and next door neighbor is Renée Beaujean, the Manchesters' daughter.

Okja and Werner, a mason, lived with the Manchesters while building their own home. It is made of brick, with extra-thick walls "like they make in the old country," Werner says. Okja joined in the construction project, laying the floor and mixing mortar. It took them awhile since Werner was working then, as he still is, for H. Sermini & Sons, Great Barrington masons.

Anyone who believes that Oriental women are self-effacing, submissive, and walk three steps behind their husbands, is due for a surprise in meeting Okja.

"When I first came here, I was very shy," she says. "Not so much now." Werner nods in strong agreement. She is still a bit diffident with strangers, though, and extremely reluctant to be publicized.

There are only a handful of Koreans, mainly war brides, in Berkshire county. Okja, by this time a 13-year resident, knows them all. More than one Korean family has come here through her efforts. Her younger brother is the most recent arrival. Her batting average in dealing with bureaucracy, and at finding homes and jobs, is most impressive. She has served as mother-substitute for a good many people, all of whom are rejoicing with her on the arrival of Sooja.

One reason it took so long for the Wyrzykowskis to get Sooja was their strong preference to have a child from Korea.

"We have both seen the suffering there," Werner said. "We know the country and how hard it would be for a child without a family there."

Years of war and uncertainty, of leaving families behind to become strangers in a strange land, have been the lot of Werner and Okja Wyrzykowski.

This holiday season, some of their sad memories may diminish with the coming of their own child. For just as others gave to them, the Wyrzykowskis are now giving to Sooja. That is the true spirit of Christmas.

Tassone

PREPARING for this year's Barrington Fair, which runs from Sept. 12 to Sept. 22, Thomas Cinella of 176 Main St., Lee, and his children Peter, 8, and Katie, 2, check produce they are entering for exhibit.

3-30-76 Eagle

Effort planned to tag major issues

Lee meeting part of U.S. grassroots movement

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — Monday night at 8 at the Congregational Church residents will have the opportunity to discuss what they feel are the most important issues and problems the community faces. Solutions to those problems will also be discussed.

The five greatest concerns that emerge from the conference will then be forwarded to another series of conferences with representatives from other towns in Massachusetts' 1st Congressional District. Conferences on the state and national level will also be held.

It is all part of a grass-roots effort by the National Congress on Volunteerism and Citizenship (NCVC), 1976, to determine the greatest concerns of the people of the country and to formulate solutions to the concerns that can be worked on at a community level.

The NCVC, a Washington, D.C.,-based nonprofit organization, says the process is designed to provide "a vehicle for the expression and resolution of citizen concerns through voluntary action."

The national congress is a program of the federal National Center for Voluntary Action and is officially recognized by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration (ARBA). Major funding has been provided by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Mich., with supporting grants from the Germaine Monteil Cosmetiques Corp. of New York City and the ARBA. George Romney, former governor of Michigan and a former cabinet officer, is honorary chairman.

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

Kenneth P. Sheldon
Backs volunteer action

The instigator of the meeting here is Kenneth P. Sheldon, a peppery septagenarian who lives on Devon Road and whose career has included work as a Wall Street investment banker, a foreign service officer for the U.S. State Department specializing in economic affairs and as a senior member of the governing board of the American Institute for Economic Research in Great Barrington.

Sheldon first became interested in the concept espoused by the NCVC when he saw Gov. Romney on the "Today" television program.

"I've always believed in the concept of volunteer action. I'd been looking around for a vehicle like this one for a number of years," he said in an interview last week.

Sheldon wrote to Washington, and, he says, was warmly encouraged, so he decided to proceed with the project.

The fruits of next Monday night's meeting, and similar meetings in other Western Massachusetts communities, will form the agenda for the congressional-district forum. Similar meetings are planned in all 435 U.S. congressional districts and the District of Columbia. These will be held between May 15 and Aug. 15.

Representatives from these district forums will be elected to attend the National Congress in Washington, D.C., next Nov. 19-23.

After that convention, state conventions will be held to "relate the findings of the national Congress process to the specific needs of each state and its communities."

While Sheldon emphasized that the five issues to emerge from Monday's meeting will be indigenous to Berkshire County and Lee, the NCVC has suggested such possible issues as taxes and their loopholes, employment policies of the federal government, and use of government money.

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

VOTING in Lee this morning was William Crawford, left, of Woodlawn Avenue. Supervising the voting, from left, are Town Clerk John J. Nagle, Gladys Kresiak of Center Street and Alma Coty of Pleasant Street. Voting is in the Railroad Street office building. The polls will be open until 8 p.m.

Name in the News

Disciple of self-help

LEE

"Self-help" is a theme woven through Kenneth P. Sheldon's 77 years — years that have seen him as a World War I combat soldier, Ivy League collegian, Wall Street financier, State Department foreign - service officer on three continents, and director of the American Institute for Economic Research (AIER) in Great Barrington.

Now retired and a resident of Devon Road, Sheldon is attempting to spread his lifelong faith in the dual concepts of self-help and the power of the individual to remedy the ills of his life.

His vehicle is the National Congress on Volunteerism and Citizenship (NCVC) 1976, a privately funded series of conferences being held in communities across the country. The purpose of the conferences is to identify the greatest problems of the community and then devise solutions to those problems through voluntary action by the residents of the community. Conferences on the state and national level will be held to coalesce the results from the local forums.

* * * *

Sheldon says that while he worked on Wall Street and in the developing nations of Africa and Indochina, he constantly preached self-help to his charges.

"People have got to learn to rely on themselves and not on government," he says succinctly and devoutly.

A crusty septagenarian who favors impeccable pin-stripe suits and regimental-striped ties, Sheldon believes that self-help and voluntary action are the only solutions to the problems of a society he feels is going downhill.

"About seven or eight years ago I got the feeling the United States was going downward. It's clear that our problems are not going to be handled by conventional political means or solutions," he says.

Sheldon believes the major reason for the decline is the increased reliance of individuals on the government to solve their problems. A laissez-faire capitalist from way back, Sheldon says that reliance on the government has "weakened the people. Socialism takes a person away from his own individuality and teaches him to rely on others for something he should do himself."

* * * *

He says the most obvious symptom of the disease of governmental encroachment is inflation. "I was in Germany in the 1920s when that country began to fall apart because of inflation. I know what it can do. If inflation keeps going things here will collapse. The situation has to be corrected," he says.

Because governmental expenditures add to the nation's deficit, and therefore its rate of inflation, Sheldon sees voluntary action by individuals as the way to correct the problems.

"I'd been wondering for some time what anyone could do to correct the situation we have today in the country," he explains. "Then I saw George Romney, the former governor of Michigan who is national chairman of the NCVC on the "Today" television program, and I realized that NCVC was the answer I'd been looking for."

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

Sheldon: remedy within

* * * *

The life that has led Sheldon to hold his strong views about the evils of governmental intervention and the virtues of private enterprise began in Auburn, N.Y., an upstate New York community. Sheldon's boyhood contemporaries in Auburn included two brothers named Dulles — John Foster, who went on to become the rigidly anti-Communist secretary of state under President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and Allen, who became the director of the Central Intelligence Agency under Eisenhower.

Sheldon enlisted in the Army at the outbreak of World War I with "the ink still wet on my high school diploma." He served as an infantryman in France and Belgium and tells of being wounded and gassed in the battle of the Hindenberg line.

After the war, he entered Brown University in Providence, R.I., and earned his bachelor's degree in English and economics.

* * * *

After a brief stint as an adjustor with an upstate New York insurance firm, Sheldon made his way to Wall Street, where he became a member of the prestigious firm, then headed by E.A. Pierce, that was later to become the giant Merrill, Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc.

His initial duties with that firm included traveling around the country advising people on stocks — and urging them to help themselves through the country's oppressive depression and not to rely on the government.

In 1941, with the start of World War II, he decided his patriotic duty lay with government service. He specialized in what he today calls "economic warfare," or making sure that the United States' enemies were not able to purchase needed goods from countries America held sway over.

* * * *

He specialized in Europe and Africa and saw firsthand another evil force looming dark in America's future. "The people I was talking to back then were telling me that Russia wanted to take over Europe. We can see today that was true," he says.

His postwar duties, which continued until 1949, included advising the U.S. government on the type of aid to give European nations to help them recover after World War II.

In 1949 he moved to the Berkshires to take a position with the economically conservative American Institute for Economic Research under the leadership of Col. Edward C. Harwood.

He stayed with the institute until 1959, when public duty called again and Sheldon, then 60, signed on with the State Department's Agency for International Development (AID). Sent to the Philippines, he surveyed all of the country's 55 provinces and devised economic industrialization plans for them.

He returned here briefly in 1964, but then was reassigned to Nigeria from 1964 to 1966 to help that agricultural country industrialize.

Sheldon says his theme in both locales was the same — private initiative and self-help.

He returned to his post at the AIER in 1966, retiring from the Great Barrington organization just last January.

* * * *

Sheldon feels that he has culled many lessons from his diverse experiences and that he has a clear view of the problems the United States now faces. He also thinks he knows how to deal with those problems — and so his disappointment that only five people came to the NCVC conference last Monday night was obvious.

But Sheldon says he will not give up, that he has learned from last Monday night's poor performance and promises to hold another session within a month.

"It's hard to excite people of this community overnight. But now I've learned how the people react and I know how to go about the whole thing next time. It's a matter of knowing how to get the right people involved. I want to attract a wide spectrum of people representing all groups of the community," he says.

And with the hint of a chuckle and a knowing grin, he admits the hardest part of a self-help effort is getting people to begin.

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

Cars wrecked in an accident last night at the intersection of East Center and Greylock streets in Lee stand this morning in the yard of Lee Ford, Inc. The car in the foreground was driven by Mary Anne McCarthy, 19, of Lee. The car to the right of the white van was driven by John F. Nickerson, 19, of Stockbridge.

Three injured in Lee accident

LEE — Three teen-agers were hospitalized last night following a two-car accident at the intersection of East Center and Greylock streets.

Listed in fair condition this morning in the intensive care unit of the Pittsfield General unit, BMC, was Mary Anne McCarthy, 19, of Navin Heights. A hospital spokesman said Miss McCarthy, the driver of one of the cars, was being treated for head injuries and multiple abrasions.

Also hospitalized this morning was Robert Humeston, 17, of East Street, a passenger in the second car. He suffered a broken pelvis in the accident.

The driver of the second car, John F. Nickerson, 18, of Sargeant Street, Stockbridge, was treated for a shoulder injury at the hospital last night and released.

Lee Police Chief John J. Boyne said Miss McCarthy's vehicle, traveling west on East Center Street, entered the intersection with Greylock Street about 9 p.m. when it was struck by the Nickerson vehicle.

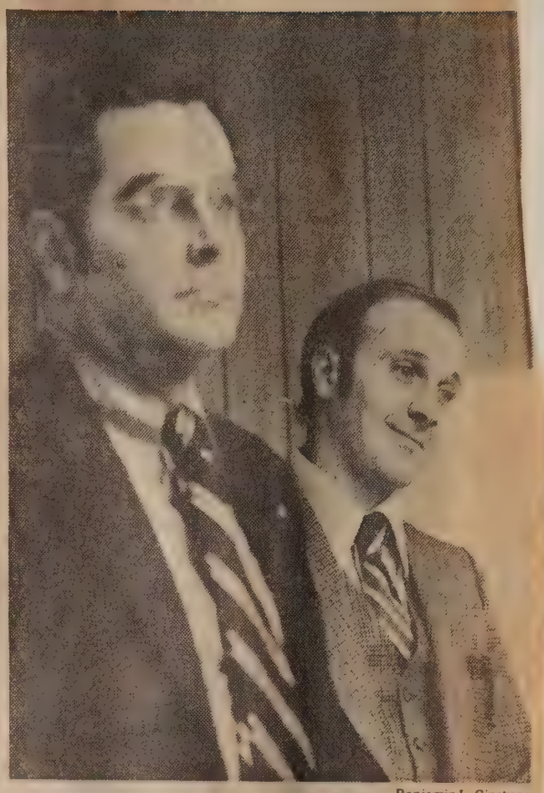
Boyne said Nickerson's northbound vehicle apparently failed to stop at a Greylock Street stop sign. Miss McCarthy's vehicle was struck in the left front, tearing off the entire front section of the car. Her car continued for about 50 feet before going off the north side of East Center Street and halting in a hedge on the property of August Brighenti. She was thrown from the car, Boyne said.

After the impact, the Nickerson vehicle also plowed into Brighenti's hedge before being stopped by a large maple tree.

Boyne said the accident was still under investigation.

All three were taken to the hospital by the Lee Ambulance.

The Lee Fire Department sprayed foam on gasoline that had spilled on the road. Lee patrolmen John E. Farina and Alan Sparks investigated the accident.



Benjamin L. Ginsberg

NEW OWNERS of the Iron Kettle Restaurant on Route 102, Lee, David Mackie, left, and William Rice, last night asked the Selectmen for a hearing on the transfer of the establishment's liquor license. Pat Williams of Laurel Street opened the restaurant in October 1974. Mackie and Rice currently operate the Four Squires in Bennington, Vt.

Iron Kettle in Lee expected to be sold

LEE — The Iron Kettle Restaurant on Route 102 will be sold by Pat Williams to the S.I.I., Inc., which operates the Four Squires Restaurant in Bennington, Vt., as soon as the transfer of the restaurant's liquor license is approved.

Two of S.I.I.'s principals — David Mackie of North Adams and William Rice of Bennington — and Mrs. Williams last night asked the Selectmen to schedule a hearing on the all-alcoholic beverage license transfer. The hearing is tentatively scheduled for March 22.

Mackie and Rice were represented last night by Brian J. Quinn of the Pittsfield firm of Cain, Hibbard & Myers.

If the Selectmen approve the license transfer, S.I.I. must travel to Boston to get the approval of the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission.

Mackie and Rice said last night they planned to operate a moderately-priced restaurant catering to businessmen for lunch and dinner. They said they hoped to open the new restaurant by April 15.

Both refused to reveal the purchase price.

Mrs. Williams, the former hostess of the Morgan House on Main Street here, opened the Iron Kettle in October 1974. She converted the 2,000-square-foot building built in 1973 by Nelson Tacy of Lenox into a restaurant seating 80. Tacy designed the building as a small grocery store, but it was used as a Springfield bulk-sales meat firm before Mrs. Williams bought it.

Nolan Block in Lee is sold to Lenox man for $65,000

LEE — The Nolan Block on the corner of Main and East Center streets, which houses the Handy Package Store, the Appalachian Press and nine residential units, has been sold to Robert A. Romeo of Lenox for $65,000.

Romeo bought the building from Raymond and Rita Fontana, who now live in East Dunedin, Fla.

Romeo is a Lenox police officer who also owns the Lenox building that houses the Book Store and part of Pedro's of Lenox on Route 7.

The sale was negotiated by V. Michael Sinacori of the Toole Real Estate Agency.

Romeo said he has no plans to change the existing stores or apartments in the building.

The first business in the building opened in 1947, when John Joseph Nolan leased space to Fred Shaker for the Budget Package Store. In 1947, George Wilde of High Lawn Farms bought the building, the package store and also opened Lee Restaurant, Inc.

The Fontana's bought the building in 1960, and operated the package store until the mid-1960s, when the business, but not the building, was sold to John Valle. Valle will continue to run the store.

Appalachian Press opened in the building in 1964.

Benjamin L. Ginsbe

Robert A. Romeo

Land-taking approved by Lee town-meeting

3/24/76

LEE — Representatives last night unanimously passed an article transferring $80 from existing funds to pay the cost of taking about 900 feet of private property by eminent domain for a sewer easement.

The land is owned by Sea Ventures, the nonprofit New Jersey group that owns the Lexia School.

Passage of the article could set a precedent of having the town take by eminent domain land which a private developer requires and has not been able to obtain for a sewer line.

The easement through the Sea Ventures land which was approved last night will connect Mandalay Road property owned by Jean Scarpa with a proposed municipal Spring Street line near the property of Peter W. and Sandra T. Consolati.

The Department of Public Works will ask the May town meeting for funds to complete the Spring Street line as part of its $2.4 million sewer-construction project.

Under town bylaws, Mrs. Scarpa needs town sewer to develop the land she owns on Mandalay Road.

The $80 will pay for land damages for the easement, appraisal fees, and other costs, according to the article.

The only reservations about the article came from Selectman Joseph J. Castronova, who said he was worried "about the precedents."

Castronova said he understood that the Department of Public Works (DPW) introduced the article because "the late Ernie Scarpa was having trouble getting the land from Sea Ventures.

"If any other developer comes to the DPW and says they are having trouble getting land for a sewer easement, then I guess the town will now have to extend the same courtesy," Castronova said.

However, the head of Sea Ventures, Walter J. Cairnes, said yesterday that he had no strenuous objections to the easement or the land-taking by the town.

The article was passed with less than five minutes' discussion. Finance Committee Chairman Beverly Y. Foley said last night her group approved the article.

TRU-VALUE

3-18-76

Lee board approves plan for 20 homes

LEE — The Planning Board last night approved Westfield developer John S. Booke's definitive plan for the 16-acre Carrington tract on East Street and Martin Avenue, thus paving the way for the construction of 20 new homes in town.

Booke said this morning he planned to begin building a road through the property on April 12 and hoped to start building the homes on July 1. He said his plans called for 10 families to move in by the middle of September, with the entire project being filled by the middle of October.

The 20 three- and four-bedroom homes will be on 20,000-square-foot lots and will cost between $29,000 and $33,000. They will be serviced by town sewer and water, Booke said.

Booke last night agreed to a covenant under which he must complete most of the road through the development before beginning construction of the houses. The road must meet town specifications, the Planning Board said.

Fill and loam

The 30-year-old developer also agreed to provide fill and loam to help solve some Martin Avenue drainage problems, possibly caused by site preparations for the development. Booke has already built seven homes on Martin Avenue on the northern boundary of the Carrington property.

The Planning Board agreed that Booke would only have to build a sidewalk on one side of the road and that he could put a temporary cul-de-sac, or turnaround, on the western end of the property near the Tamarack Avenue playground.

3-1-76

Lee voters to cast their ballots at new site on new machines

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — Lee voters will cast their ballots tomorrow at a new site and on newly purchased machines.

Tomorrow's voting will be at the Railroad Street office building, marking the first time since 1954 the voting has not been held at the Central School gymnasium. Prior to 1954, voting was held at the Town Hall, according to Betty L. Dennis, the town librarian and a member of the Historical Commission. The Railroad Street building was purchased in 1974.

The polls will be open tomorrow from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Town Clerk John J. Nagle predicted a turnout of "about 25 per cent." Lee has 3,118 registered voters.

Eight new machines were purchased last month from the AVM Corp. of Jamestown, N.Y. for $20,248. The appropriation was approved by last May's town meeting. The town rented the machines from the company for last May's town elections.

Old machines damaged

The town was forced to rent the machines last year after the old machines were damaged by a ruptured steam pipe in the Central School area where the machines were stored. Children playing on the machines had also caused minor damage to the old machines.

Town officials said the Railroad Street site was a better polling place because it affords a better storage area and more room.

The Railroad Street site will also offer easier access and more parking than the Central School gym and classes at the school will not be interrupted on Election Day, town officials said last week in discussing the merits of the Railroad Street site.

Voters tomorrow will help choose delegates to the Democratic National Convention in New York City this July and the Republican National Convention in Kansas City, Mo., this August.

Two Lee Democrats — James M. Graham of Maple Street and Judith Larson of Theresa Terrace — are running on the uncommitted-delegate slate.

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

FINAL PREPARATIONS for tomorrow's voting at the new Railroad Street site are made by Paul Merwin, the custodian of the Railroad Street town offices. The voting will be done on new machines, which the town recently purchased from the AVM Corp. of Jamestown, N.Y. for $20,248.

New information booth to be built in Lee

LEE — The Selectmen Monday approved the Rotary Club's bicentennial project — erection of a new information booth to replace the present one in the Congregational Church park.

The new booth, according to Rotary Building Committee chairman Frederick A. Warden, will measure 10 by 20 feet, more than double the 7-by-6-feet dimensions of the present facility. The design for the white - clapboard structure was submitted by Lee High School student James Durette, who won the schoolwide drafting competition for the project.

Warden told the Selectmen that the front, covered area of the building will serve as a waiting area for riders on the Berkshire Transit Authority buses, "taking away from the current congestion in front of the Town Hall.

According to the Rotary Club's plans, the present booth will first be removed and the blacktop under it will be broken up. The whole area will be reseeded, with high school students providing the labor. All power and telephone lines will be buried. The only substantial changes in the area, Warden explained, will be the removal of one evergreen tree that currently stands in the way.

The information booth, usually open from late June to mid-October, is actually operated by the Chamber of Commerce, although it rests on First Congregational Church land. Warden noted that the Church has given its approval to the new building project and has indicated that when the structure is completed all further maintenance responsibilities will fall to the Chamber, as was the case with the old building.

Lee annual meeting to vote on $1.5 million sewer plan

LEE — A sewer plan that would add about 180 residences on 12 streets to the municipal system at a cost to taxpayers of $1,503,440 will be included on the warrant at the May annual town meeting, the board of the Department of Public Works (DPW) decided last night.

The total cost of the project, which was rejected at a special town meeting last July 31, is $2,369,225. The state and federal governments have offered $865,785 to help the town complete the project.

Four articles

The DPW will present the plan in four articles, DPW Chairman Paul R. Kneuer said last night. The articles will seek:

— $490,000 to build a line from Stockbridge Road along Willow Brook to Devon Road and then to Spring Street. George Street will also be included. The total cost of the project is $565,000, with the federal and state governments paying $75,000. Sewers for Park View Terrace, Mountain View Terrace and part of West Park Street, which were originally included in this project, were passed by the town meeting last July.

— $303,315 to construct a main trunk line from the sewer-treatment plant on Route 102 across Marble Street and following Willow Brook to the system installed several years ago by the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority. Part of Fairview Street would also be served by the line. DPW officials say the line is an important part of the town's master sewer plan. The total cost of the project is $734,100, with the federal and state governments paying $430,785.

— $225,775 to install a line from the intersection of Housatonic Street and Fuller Street to Leonard Avenue. Part of Greylock Street would also be covered. The total cost of the project is $293,375, with the government paying $67,500.

— $484,350 to install a main sewer line from Tyringham Road along Route 20 to about 400-feet east of the intersection of Maple Street and Cape Street. Streets included would be Water Street, Chapel Street, Silver Street and parts of Cape Street and Forest Street. The total cost of the project is $776,850, with the government paying $292,500.

The articles included all the streets in the town that are eligible for state aid.

Kneuer said last night that his group had no plans to introduce an article that would sewer South Lee at a cost to town taxpayers of $1.75 million. The total cost of the South Lee project would be $2.47 million.

The South Lee article was rejected overwhelmingly by the July town meeting along with a $1.5 million article that would have provided sewers for the streets that are not eligible for government aid.

The federal and state funds are for "collector" lines — lines which receive the flow of two or more separate lateral sewer lines.

The money became available last spring when President Ford released more than $6 billion impounded by former President Nixon. The funds are being distributed nationally by the Environmental Protection Agency and, in Massachusetts, by the Water Resources Commission.

The town has until next January to submit a final plan to the government. DPW officials said last summer that meant the articles for the project would have to be approved no later than this July.

At last July's town meeting, representatives cited the unknown cost of replacing the condemned southern wing of the Central School in rejecting the sewer articles. A town meeting next March 25 will decide which of two school options will be built to replace that wing.

Harris Photo

LEE — In Pittsfield Probate Court last week, the Callahan Oil Company was ordered to remove its pylon sign bearing the word "Lehigh" at the company's gas station on Housatonic Street. The town had filed suit against the company, claiming the 64-square foot sign violated the town's zoning bylaws, while the company maintained that the sign was merely a continuation of the nonconforming Phillips 66 sign, which was formerly on the spot. Judge Andrea F. Nuciforo rendered the decision, which is being viewed by some as a precedent on which to base future legal action against signs exceeding the maximum 16-square foot sign size allowed by the bylaws, particularly the many billboards that currently stand in town.

3-1-76

Natalie Cole is winner of 2 Grammy awards

TYRINGHAM — Natalie Cole, whose stepfather and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Devore, own the Morgan House in Lee and live on Brace Road here, won two of the country's top singing prizes at the Grammy Awards ceremony Saturday night in Hollywood, Calif.

Ms. Cole, daughter of the late singing great Nat King Cole, won the awards for being the best new performer of 1975 and the best new female rhythm and blues vocalist.

Ms. Cole last appeared in the Berkshires Feb. 9, when she gave a benefit concert at Taconic High School in Pittsfield for the Berkshire Country Day School.

Ms. Cole's 14-year-old twin sisters attend the school and her mother, Maria Cole Devore, is a trustee of the school.

Other winners

In other Grammy Award news, the husband-wife team of Daryl Dragon, son of conductor Carmen Dragon, and his wife Toni Tennile won the 1975 record of the year award at the 18th annual presentations.

The duo, better known as The Captain and Tennile, were lauded for their rendition of Neil Sedaka's "Love Will Keep Us Together." The award was presented Saturday by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

Singer-composer Paul Simon, formerly half of the folksinging duo Simon and Garfunkel, received a Grammy for best album, "Still Crazy After All These Years," and was named best male vocalist.

Hundreds of pop, rock and roll, country-western and jazz celebrities attended the presentations at the Hollywood Paladium, which featured performances by several winners, including Simon, who won seven Grammys with his former partner, and Ms. Cole.

Also performing were old-timers Ella Fitzgerald and Mel Torme.

Richard Burton won a Grammy for best children's recording of the year for "The Little Prince," while best song honors went to Stephen Sondheim for "Send in the Clowns."

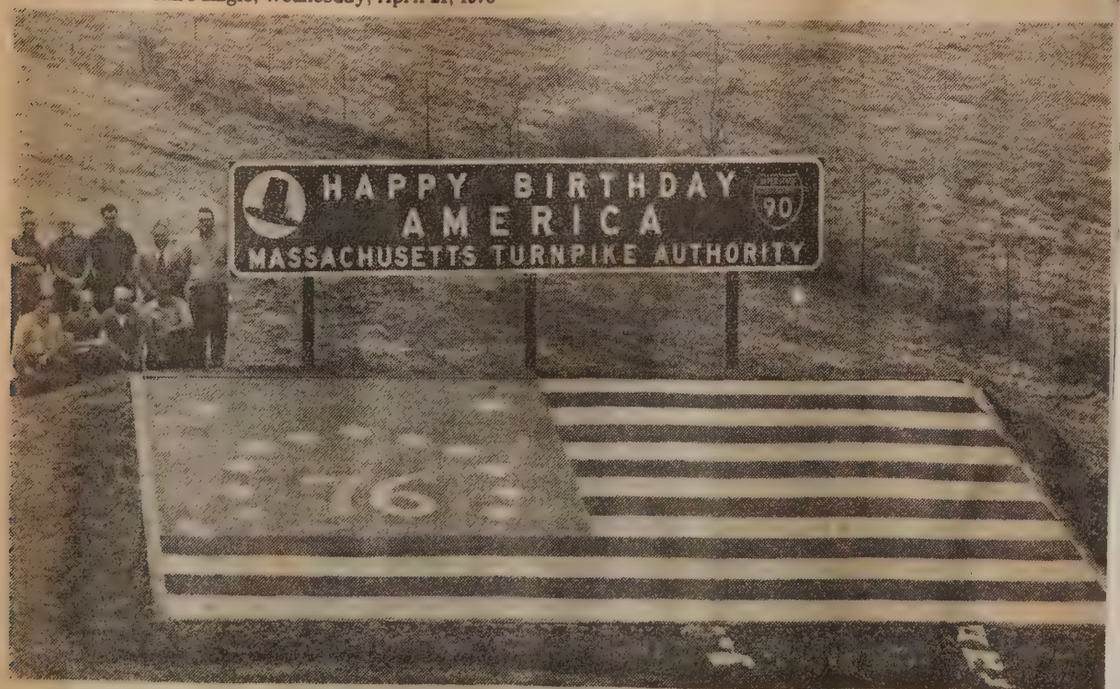
Janis Ian was voted best female pop vocalist for "At Seventeen," and the Eagles had the best pop group vocal, "Lyin' Eyes."

John Williams, composer of the theme music for "Jaws," won for best album of an original motion picture score, while Willie Nelson and Linda Ronstadt took their first Grammys as best male and female country singers for "Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain," and "I Can't Help It," respectively.

Other winners included Dizzy Gillespie, jazz solo performer, Chick Corea's Return to Forever, jazz group; Silver Convention, rhythm and blues; Chicago Symphony, classical album and opera recording; "The Wiz," show album, and Richard Pryor, comedy.

Arthur Marasco

Natalie Cole singing at Taconic High School in Pittsfield Feb. 9.



Stephen Hawkins

Sign of Welcome

Employes of the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority pose with a Bicentennial greeting and flag they constructed of painted lime chips from the quarry in Lee. The job cost approximately $2,000, not including the sign, according to Edward Fitzgerald, maintenance supervisor, and took about a week to make. The project was suggested by Turnpike Authority Chairman, John T. Driscoll, and was supervised by Ned Cerasuolo, special projects supervisor. Others in the photo are John Hughes, George Naventi, George Armstrong, Richard Goodno, Raymond Charland, Russell Loring, George Schneyer, and Garfield Galant. The flag measures about 20 by 30 feet. It faces eastbound traffic just inside the New York state line.

CENTER STREET bridge over the Housatonic River in Lee, will not get state funds this year.

State reduction of public works funds brings complaints from Lee Selectmen

LEE — The state Department of Public Works (DPW) has refused to help with the maintenance of the Laurel Lake boat ramp and has announced it will not widen Housatonic Street this year or improve the Center Street bridge over the Housatonic River for at least two years.

That news, which the Selectmen received Monday night, comes on top of the announcement last week that a state study of a Lee bypass has been shelved for at least two years.

All four developments prompted angry comments from the Selectmen at their weekly meeting.

"There are a lot of things I could say, but none of them would be printable," said Chairman Edward F. Murray.

"We'll all be in Kelly's (the local funeral home) before any of this gets done," said Martin H. Deely.

Joseph J. Castronova shook his head and said he'd better not say anything.

The new information came to the Selectmen after town DPW Supt. J. Peter Scolforo talked with state DPW District Engineer Dean P. Amidon Monday afternoon.

Word of the delay in the bypass study came last week from Amidon after he received a letter from Robert T. Tierney, the state DPW's chief engineer.

Amidon told Scolforo that the state DPW "has no plans for maintenance of any kind" at the boat ramp. The town refused to accept ownership of the state-built boat ramp at a 1965 town meeting.

However, neither the state DPW nor the state Department of Natural Resources (which owns the lake) has been maintaining the area since state budget cutbacks last year.

The town was forced to take over maintenance of the area last summer when refuse was dumped into the lake and trash containers went unattended.

Amidon also suggested that the town draw up a set of rules for the area to help control such things as overnight camping, swimming in the area which is supposed to be reserved for boat launching, and the refuse problem.

However, the Selectmen said that court prosecution of any violators of the regulations would be impossible since the town does not own the property.

The state DPW said last summer they would begin widening Housatonic Street to three lanes next fall. The project would have extended from West Park Street to just past Nejaimes' Lee Market.

Amidon did not indicate when the project would be done.

The state had not set a date for its Center Street bridge improvement project. However, town officials hoped the work could be done as quickly as possible.

The narrow and heavily traveled bridge crosses the Housatonic River about 20 feet east of where Center Street takes a 90-degree turn into Laurel Street. Both streets are part of Route 20.

The Lee bypass is an issue which surfaces periodically here as a way to reduce traffic through the middle of town.

Town and state officials last spring began earnestly studying a bypass route.

And at last May's town elections, residents in a "straw" vote approved 342 to 224 a route that would take traffic from the Massachusetts Turnpike west along Route 102 and then north to Route 7.

But the chief DPW engineer, Robert T. Tierney, told Amidon last week in a letter:

"I am convinced that this work (the bypass study) should be done under the countywide transportation study" that Curran & Associates of Northampton is expected to complete in late 1977.

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

DOUBLE PRESENTATION took place last night at the Lee Library as Kiwanis Club president Richard Gore (left) presented Lee Library Association president James Dolan a microfilm reader and Dolan presented Gore a plaque thanking the Kiwanis Club for its $500 gift.

Lee district added to register

Joel Librizzi

LEE HISTORIC DISTRICT is shown in this aerial photograph, taken in 1974, looking north along Main Street. District extends from Lee Library at the right of the photograph to Kelly Funeral Home in the bottom left and includes First Congregational Church.

Bryant 'Marriage House' also gets designation

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

Lee's lower Main Street and Great Barrington's Dwight-Henderson House have gained inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, according to an announcement from the National Park Service.

The designation means that property owners may obtain matching federal funds for external and internal work on the buildings. In addition, if any federal funding is involved in a project that may affect the buildings, such as street widening, the entire project may be reviewed.

The Lee site extends down both sides of Main Street from the Lee Library to the Congregational Church park. All the property owners in the district approved the application for the register.

The Dwight-Henderson House, commonly known as the William Cullen Bryant House, was built in 1759, and stands on Main Street just south of the Berkshire Motor Inn.

The two South County areas join Park Square in Pittsfield and the Monument Square-Eagle Street area and the Boston & Maine Freight House, both in North Adams, as Berkshire County sites in the National Register.

According to an announcement of the National Park Service decision by Rep. Silvio O. Conte, R-Pittsfield, and Sen. Edward M. Brooke, R-Mass., the Lee site was named to the register because its 19th century buildings are associated historically with the development of the papermaking and marble industries.

The structures on the west side of the street were built during the first half of the 1800s and the buildings on the east side replaced structures destroyed in fires in 1857 and 1911. The National Park Service said the street represents architectural styles as they changed from the 19th to the 20th century.

New England saltbox

The Dwight Henderson House, a classic example of New England salt-box architecture, was built in 1759 for Brig. Gen. Joseph Dwight, then the speaker of the colonial Massachusetts House of Representatives. He was also a key figure in the 1745 siege of Louisburg.

The house was sold in 1810 to Deacon Allen Henderson, a trader. Henderson's sister-in-law, Frances Fairchild, married poet William Cullen Bryant in the house in 1821, thus giving the structure the name of the Bryant House. Bryant's residence for many years, The Homestead, is in Cummington.

The building was originally three stories, but has been diminished to two during its 217-year history. Although the house has been moved twice, it still stands within 200 feet of its original site.

Inclusion in the National Register means the house is eligible for government renovation grants, but is not protected from sale or destruction.

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

6-4-76

5-article warrant up for vote in Lee

LEE — Five articles will be voted on at a special town meeting June 16 at 7:30 at the Central School gym. The warrant is highlighted by two articles that were passed over at the annual town meeting and by a return appearance of a request that a $25,000 federal grant be used for work at the Railroad Street office building.

One of the articles passed over on May 13 asks that $140,000 be transferred from available funds to lower the town's tax rate. The article had to be passed over because town officials did not know on May 13 the exact money they would be able to take from available funds. The $140,000 is expected to lower the tax rate about $2.10 per $1,000 of assessed value.

The other article passed over asks $450 to help pay the telephone bill of Southern Berkshire Community Action (SBCA), a group that offers advice on everything from food stamps to mortgage programs. The May 13 article asked that the $450 be taken from revenue-sharing funds. But town officials ruled that since SBCA receives other federal funds, it was not eligible for revenue-sharing money. The $450 on the June 16 warrant will come from available funds.

The use of a $25,000 Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant was approved at the May 13 town meeting. But town officials had not held two public hearings prior to the formal vote as mandated in HUD procedures. The second of the hearings will be next Monday night at 7:30 at the Town Hall. The money is tentatively slated to be used for interior renovations.

The two other articles that will be on the June 16 warrant ask funds to cover expenses for the end of the fiscal year. Representatives will be asked to approve the transfer of $45,000 to cover interest payments that must be made on several short-term town bonds.

The fifth article asks $5,000 to cover the deficit created in the town's Blue Cross/Blue Shield account when the company raised its premiums earlier in the year.

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

NIAGARA MILL in Lenox Dale will be reopened in the middle of next month by the Peter J. Schweitzer Division of the Kimberly-Clark Corp. The mill has been closed since December 1974. Its reopening will employ 15 people making capacitor paper. Photo looks to the west. East Street is in foreground.

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4-28-76

State offers $4 million subsidy for Lee sewer expansion project

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — The town will receive $4 million in state aid if town meeting representatives approve a $4.7 million sewer expansion project at the May 13 town meeting.

J. Peter Scolforo, the town's Department of Public Works (DPW) superintendent, said yesterday he had received word that the state Water Resources Commission will fund both lateral and collector sewer lines.

Collectors receive the flow of two lateral lines, and the state had previously indicated it would fund only the collectors. That would have meant about $1.9 million from the state.

The new state aid means that residents will have to appropriate about $700,000 for the project that would add about 300 families to the municipal system.

Scolforo said if the town pays for the project with a 10-year bond, the total cost would be $985,000. That comes to "less than $2 on the tax rate for a 10-year bond," Scolforo said.

New criteria set up by the state Water Resources Commission also may make it possible for the town to receive funding for sewers on Theresa Terrace and Marble Street, Scolforo said. Those two streets are not part of the current project.

The DPW will hold a public hearing next Monday night at 7:30 at the high school cafetorium to discuss the five town meeting articles that make up the sewer project.

The five articles encompass streets in all parts of town, including a $2.47 million South Lee sewer project.

Representatives at a special town meeting last July 31 defeated a $6.5 million sewer project that included $1.64 million in government aid.

Dorothy W. Chapman

WILD BURROS from Nevada arrived in Dalton yesterday and have been adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Hall.

Hinsdale couple adopt burros

By Dorothy W. Chapman

DALTON — A pair of wild burros, rounded up in Nevada three weeks ago, arrived in town yesterday after traveling 3,000 miles in a trailer.

Kenneth and Kay Hall of Hinsdale, who maintain an 80-acre farm on Cleveland Road, adopted the animals. They were part of a herd of 28 rounded up near Blue Diamond, Nev., by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The Halls have named the 4-year-old pair, Jenny and Jack.

Once a person applies for the wild burros or wild horses and is approved by the BLM, the animals may be adopted but they remain the property of the U.S. government and the adoptive parents must adhere to certain restrictions imposed by the BLM.

"You don't really own the burros, and they can't be used for any monetary gain. You can't sell or give them away," Hall said. "For example, you can't use them in a rodeo or any other commercial venture to make money."

However, any offspring belong to the adoptive parents and that's a happy note for the Halls.

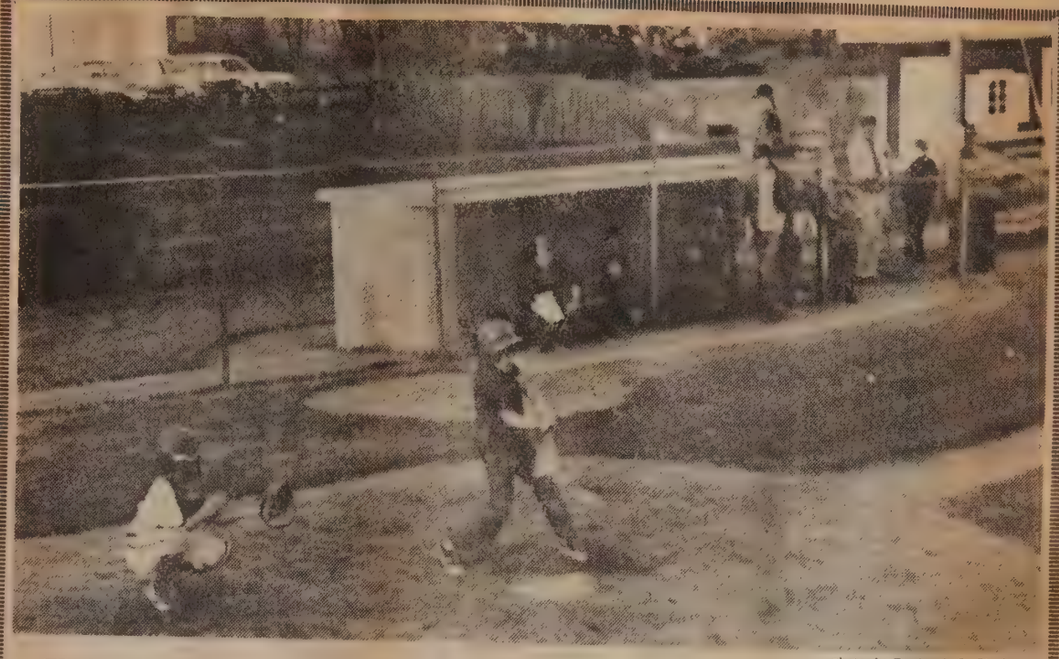
Jack and Jenny are expecting. The baby burro, though, will not arrive until next January since the gestation period for burros is 340 days.

The animals made the four-day trip from Nevada in a four-horse stack trailer driven by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Nicholason, members of the National Wild Horse Association which was instrumental in assisting the BLM with the roundup.

The roundup was necessary when residents of the Blue Diamond area complained that wild burros were destroying gardens and landscaping.

By late yesterday the "wild" burros were peacefully settled in the Halls' barn, along with other farm animals and showed no indication of the stubborn traits attributed to the breed.

Eagle 4/21/76



photos by Benjamin L. Ginsberg

FIRST GIRL to make a Lee Little League team, Chris Thomas, takes a whack at a pitch in a scrimmage last night. Chris got a single on the play. She is a shortstop for the Hurlbut team.

Lee Little League majors go coed

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — Chris Thomas, with her short, cropped blonde hair, portly posture and propensity for blowing gum bubbles while playing shortstop, doesn't look like a barrier breaker.

And although she has become the first female to break into the previously all-male bastion of Lee Little League baseball, at least at the major-division level, she is frankly rather surprised by it all.

"I didn't think they'd pick any girls again this year," she said last evening while warming up with her Hurlbut teammates.

This is the third year the Housatonic Street resident has tried out for the league, but both other times she was relegated to a position in the farm leagues.

This year it was different.

"I picked her because she's good," says her coach, Gary Heath. "She's better than 70 per cent of the boys who tried out and I had five positions to fill this year."

"I'm very excited," said the 12-year-old Chris, who insists she hasn't gotten any "grief" from her male teammates or opponents. "They haven't said anything to me and I don't think they will."

One reason they probably won't say anything, says her coach, is her performance on the field. In a scrimmage last night, Chris started at shortstop, played errorless ball, and got a single and a walk in her times at bat.

She blended in on the field with her teammates, her expression intense, her hands professionally on her knees while awaiting every pitch, an occasional pink bubble protruding from between her lips.

The absence of girls in the league last year angered several parents and struck many observers as unfair. A

Chris Thomas

farm league team with an all-female starting outfield won its division last year and the girls' coach said at the time he thought they were talented enough to play with the guys.

Chris was the only one of six girls who tried out this year to make the big leagues. The league filled 26 open slots. The selections are made by the league coaches in a draft session. The coaches make the picks after watching four days of tryouts.

"We don't encourage or discourage girls," says league commissioner V. Michael Sinacori. "Our charter says that girls can play. If they're good enough to make the teams, then they play."

Yet the parents of girls who did not make the league think that a girl must be much better than a boy to gain a spot in the league.

The comments of several league coaches on the subject of picking girls for their teams tend to back up the assertion.

One coach, who steadfastly insisted on anonymity said:

"I really can't see picking a girl. I mean, sometimes I need to yell at my players, and I just can't make myself yell at a little girl."

Two coaches said the problem of dealing with an injured girl player made them reluctant to have one on their team.

"I wouldn't mind coaching a girl unless one got hurt," said Chamber of Commerce coach Peter Curtin. "Let's be really honest. Suppose one got hit right in the crotch. I know what to do if a guy gets hurt there, you loosen his belt and get him breathing. But what am I going to do with a girl?"

Morart coach Joseph Eisenberg has similar reservations. "If a girl and boy were equal, I'd probably go with the boy. I mean, what would I do if a girl got hit below the belt or in the back. Boys I can take in the dugout and take care of them, loosen a belt or rub if the injury needs to be rubbed. But what can I do with a girl? Girls have a place in the league, but maybe what we need is a woman coach."

Heath was the coach who made the plunge into the unknown area of integrated Lee Little League baseball. Was he kidded at all when he made the pick?

"Yes, yes, yes," he said yesterday. "Someone asked if I really wanted to make that pick. One other guy said he thought my team would have a psychological advantage with a girl on it. Some tried to talk me out of it, but then after the initial impact wore off, they all said they were glad I did it."

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7-76

Stock Averages

(Noon) Dow-Jones (Shearson Hayden Stone, Inc.)

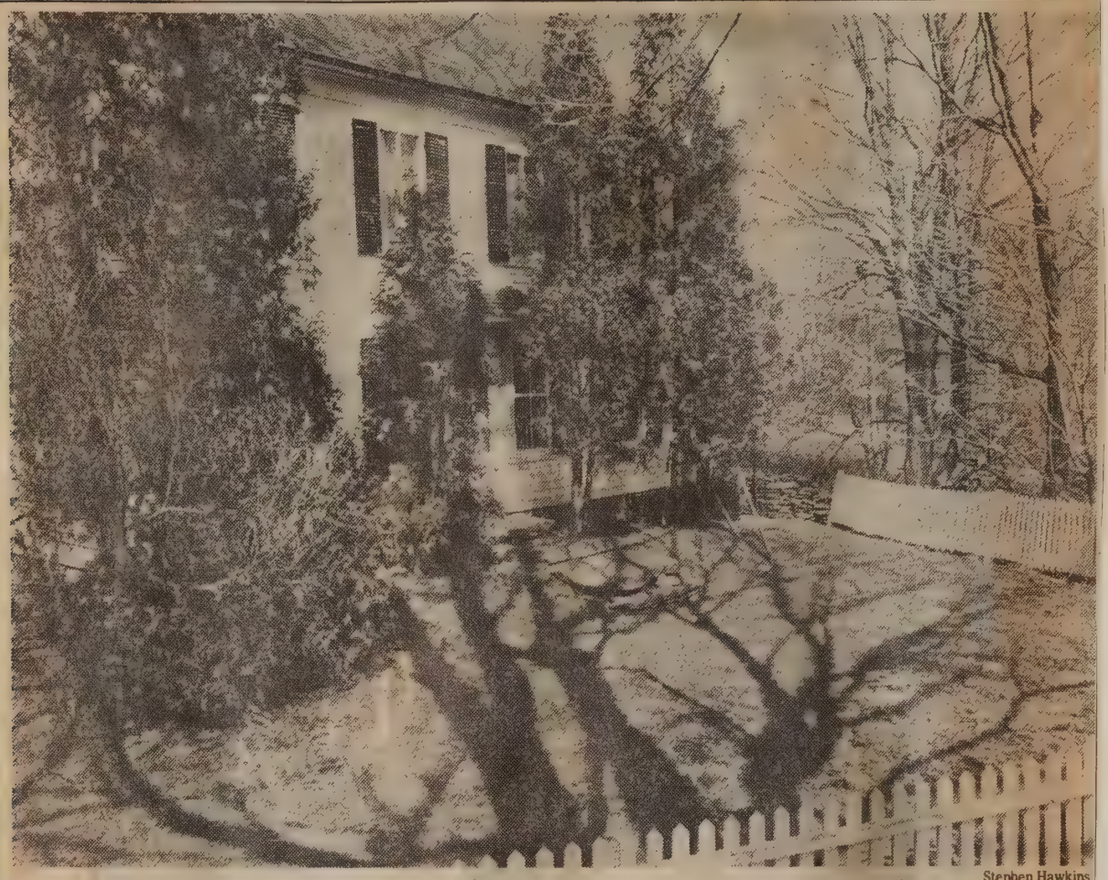
30 Industrials	978.27	+1.18
20 Transp.	204.66	—1.30
15 Utilities	86.21	— .41

Sales 7,220,000

The Berks

Second Section

Pittsfield, Massachusett



Stephen Hawkins

STEEPLETOP home of Edna St. Vincent Millay will be the centerpiece of the artists' colony in Austerlitz.

Millay Arts Colony makes plans for million-dollar construction

By Charles J. Bonenti

A building program that would turn the Austerlitz, N. Y., home of the late poet Edna St. Vincent Millay into a retreat with living and working quarters for up to 20 artists, has been approved by the directors of the Millay Colony for the Arts, the organization formed to operate the retreat.

Board President Clemens D. Kalischer of Stockbridge said the directors have endorsed a master plan that would see 20 studios, a residence building and administrative quarters developed on the 600-acre farm, called Steepletop, on Route 22 about three miles from the Massachusetts border. He said the plan, developed by Cambridge architect Peter Chermayeff, would be implemented in stages over a number of years as money became available. Kalischer estimated the total cost of the project at more than $1 million.

The proposal to develop Steepletop as an artists' colony was announced originally in 1974, when the Millay Colony for the Arts was established as a nonprofit corporation. This week's decision by the board to approve a master plan, marks a major step in getting the project off the ground.

Kalischer said the directors are hoping to persuade individual donors to finance construction of each studio, tagged at roughly $16,000.

"As we raise the money," he said, "we'll go back to Chermayeff and ask him to work up architectural plans. It's too early at this point to decide what the buildings will look like."

He said a fund-raising brochure is being prepared.

Kalischer said the individual studios would be grouped in three clusters far from the road to insure quiet and privacy. The artists would live in a single residence building equipped with a dining hall and kitchens. A barn on the property is already being renovated, he said, and the main house will be maintained. A small museum is planned for the Millay papers and a separate parking area will be built so that most of the colony grounds will be reserved for pedestrians.

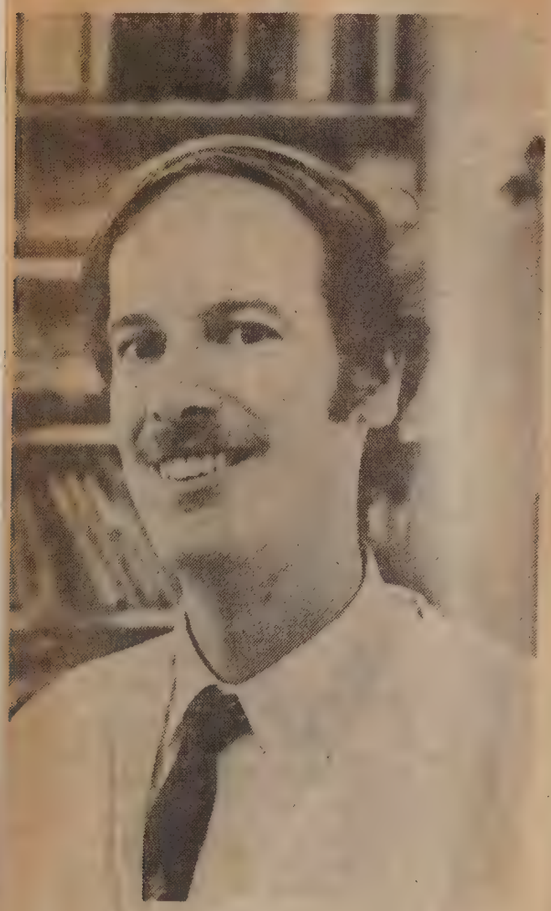
Steepletop, which is a National Historic Site, was Miss Millay's home from 1925 until her death in 1950. During her lifetime, she frequently offered it as a retreat for artists seeking a quiet, congenial place to work. After she died, her younger sister, Norma Millay Ellis, who still lives at Steepletop, continued the tradition. Mrs. Ellis's husband, the abstract painter Charles Ellis, died in March. Mrs. Ellis has been gradually turning over portions of the farm to the Millay Colony corporation. She will continue to live at Steepletop as the retreat develops, Kalischer said.

The Millay Colony is being patterned after the MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, N.H. Under the program, painters, writers, actors and other artists are invited to come and work for one to three months with all or most of their expenses paid. Over the past two years, Kalischer said, the colony has had one artist at a time at Steepletop. The building program, when completed, would permit up to 20 to come at a time.

In the two years since it's been formed, the Millay Colony has received grants of nearly $50,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts and the Sterling Clark Foundation. Kalischer said most of this money has been earmarked for operating rather than capital expenses.

This Saturday, the Millay Colony is holding a benefit performance of John Kilty's play "Dear Liar," starring television actress Valerie Harper, at the Cohoes (N.Y.) Music Hall. The performance, which starts at 8, will be preceded by a buffet dinner prepared by Alice Brock of Alice's Restaurant in Stockbridge.

1-3-76



Benjamin Ginsberg

Richard R. Charron

Escoffier silver medal awarded R. R. Charron

LENOX — Richard R. Charron, organist, chef and college student, has been awarded the Escoffier silver medal by the Chef de Cuisine Association, a chapter of the American Culinary Federation. "It is one of the highest awards in the culinary field," according to Anthony John Jr., president of the association.

Mr. Charron, 26, is a graduate of Lenox Memorial High School and is attending the University of Hartford, West Hartford, Conn., nights working towards a degree in business management. He hopes to become a kitchen manager. "It's about the same as executive chef," he explained. "A lot of people think chefs are under educated and not too smart."

In the meantime, Mr. Charron lives with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest J. Charron of Lenox. He is organist at Grace Episcopal Church, Dalton, and is working on the census in Lenox to earn money to help pay for his education.

He became interested in becoming a chef quite by accident, shortly after graduating from high school.

"I was working as an aide at the Edgecomb Nursing Home when I was offered a job as assistant to Chef James Clapton at Blantyre," he said.

He served the major part of his apprenticeship with Clapton in various Berkshire restaurants. Clapton now is in Miami, Fla.

Among the local establishments where Charron was employed are Berkshire Motor Inn, Blantyre Castle and the G &G Restaurant in Lee.

He has been organist and choirmaster at Grace Church since September. He served in the same capacity at the First United Methodist Church of Lee from 1968 to 1974.

'Re-entry' into outside world is harrowing thing for inmate

By James E. Overmyer

After five straight years in prison (on the last of a number of sentences) Peter Remick stood in the Berkshire Community College-parking lot last September, shaking in the face of freedom.

"It was like I had 900 billion nerve endings; it was probably as bad or worse than all my time at Walpole," the former armed robber now recalls.

Remick, currently a local House of Correction inmate after some potentially dangerous times at Walpole State Prison, was interviewed by a reporter in the BCC student center. His presence there was a commentary on how the often-unattained goal of prisoner rehabilitation can be made to work.

Until May of 1975, Remick had been serving a long sentence for a pair of Boston armed robberies. He claims now that up to his capture in 1970 he perpetrated "50 to 60" holdups, but was caught for only four, the last two being good for 9 to 14 years.

Vicki Sanders

Peter Remick

Wrote in prison

In prison, however, he began work on a book, "In Constant Fear." Published last year, its criticism of some Walpole inmates made Remick, even while it was being written, fearful for his safety in the state's maximum-security institution.

So he spent 22 months segregated from other prisoners until his petition to the state Supreme Judicial Court resulted in his transfer here.

While "Constant Fear" has not yet caused constant profits to flow in, Remick is seeking a publisher for a second book, which in large measure takes up his life in Berkshire County.

The new book has a working title of "In Constant Humor," which says a lot about how things have gone for the articulate 34-year-old since he became a collegian through the local jail's model education program.

But in the beginning, even the limited freedom of the BCC campus was a heavy shock for a man who says he was either imprisoned or wanted by the police for "13 years and 51 weeks" of the last 14 years.

"It had to be combination of things that worked at the House of Correction and BCC, or there's no way on earth I would have made it," he said.

'Positive influences'

Accordingly, he named Ralph Packard, assistant director of the House of Correction's education program, and Bernice T. Morehead, chairman of the human services department at the college, as his "two most positive influences."

Freedom entailed some hurdles, at first. For example, just the normal day-to-day encounters with women students at the college was a problem "after years and years of confinement."

In the new book, and stuck in his memory, is the tour around the campus his first day, conducted by a female student.

The dazed newcomer, following her closely, kept muttering "what a figure."

"What did you say?" she kept asking.

If she never found out then, she will when the new book is finished.

Remick said his enthusiasm for the college has been returned by its students and faculty. He gets visits in the House of Correction, and invitations to come to their homes on weekend furloughs.

A man who "always looked down on education" now has 18 college credits, and lately has become a "resource person" for the sociology classes of Prof. Larry Brandstein, lecturing and answering questions on prison life.

The experience, he said, wipes out thoughts about "armed robbery, death and blood. It's like I was another regular college kid."

Despite his success, or perhaps because of it, he said he is impatient with the House of Correction and BCC, because they have not arranged similar opportunities for more inmates.

"They have an obligation to put people (who are in jail) out on the street this way, but it has to be a massive effort," he stated.

Only way

He said he couldn't imagine anything other than programs like the jail-education program and attendance at BCC "that would have gotten me off the armed-robbery thing."

He said he is frustrated with trying to get his message across, to new, young inmates, who "don't care until it's too late" about changing their ways.

There is an escalating cycle of crimes for the unreformed criminal, Remick believes, and, "I was really thinking big toward the end."

Now however, he said, "sticking a gun at somebody seems so goddam bizarre."

Eligible for parole in November, he has hopes of remaining in Pittsfield as some sort of counselor, possibly at BCC and possibly working with young inmates.

He does not deny his past misdeeds and, in fact, details many of them in his new book. But, he said, "they're over with. Everything is canceled."

"I'm still young — I feel young," he asserted. (In fact, he looks about 10 years younger than he really is.) "I can't see myself reverting, because for the first time in my life, I fit in."

1-21-1976 EAGLE

Sun Myung Moon's Unification church gets cool reception in Barrington

GREAT BARRINGTON — A man identifying himself as a representative of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church was denied a permit to solicit money in this town at Monday's meeting of the Selectmen.

The man said that he had come to Great Barrington from the Unification Church's regional headquarters in Kingston, N.Y. He said the church planned to open youth centers across New England and that the fund-raising for which he was seeking a permit would go towards that end.

A church spokesman in Marblehead, the Massachusetts headquarters of the church, said today there are 10 "pioneering centers" in eight Massachusetts communities, including Pittsfield, Worcester (where there are two), Amherst (also two), Allston, Cambridge and Boston.

Dr. Joseph Shestik said he did not know the telephone number or address of the Pittsfield center.

A New York City spokesman for the church said there are 30,000 members in the United States, including 7,000 "core members," who are "live-in, full-time" members.

The Great Barrington Selectmen were unanimous in their negative response. A. John Tuller said that local churches had a sufficiently difficult time raising money and supporting themselves without competing with another, outside religious organization.

The man told the Selectmen that he was sorry they appeared to have preconceived negative feelings about the Unification Church. He said he would send them some literature on the subject.

The church was created by the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, a 56-year-old Korean evangelist who developed a theology after, he says, he received a revelation 40 years ago from Jesus Christ.

The church has been in the news many times over the past three years as stories surfaced about distraught parents who try to kidnap their children in an effort to get them away from the influence of the church. Former church members have said that they were told that Satan spoke through parents who prevailed on them to return home.

The representative at Monday evening's Selectmen's meeting asked if his group could solicit on private property without a permit. Paul J. Gibbons replied that they could not.

UPI

MAIDEN FLIGHT of the Anglo-French Concorde jetliner in commercial service begins today from London's Heathrow Airport. At the same time, another of the supersonic planes took off from Paris's Charles de Gaulle Airport. The two planes were bound for Bahrain and Rio de Janeiro. Story, Page 2.

Eagle 1-20-76

Son of ex-Lenox headmaster to seek seat in U.S. Senate

LENOX — Robert A.G. Monks of Cape Elizabeth, Maine, who had several connections with the former Lenox School here, yesterday announced in Maine that he will again seek the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Sen. Edmund S. Muskie, a Democrat.

Monks, a New England millionaire businessman and 1947 graduate of Lenox School, was defeated in his bid for Muskie's seat in 1972.

And, according to UPI, Monks has started off on the wrong foot this year when he made the announcement in the Maine Legislative Council chamber, which John Martin, the Democratic house speaker there, said was an improper use of the chamber room.

UPI also quoted Monks as saying yesterday, "After watching Sen. Muskie's speech last night, I have no choice but to run." Monks' party workers said that winning the nomination should be no problem, according to UPI.

Besides being a graduate of Lenox School, Monks was a school trustee before the school merged as Bordentown/Lenox School in 1972.

UPI

Robert A.G. Monks

His father, the Rev. G. Gardner Monks, was the school's first headmaster and was an honorary trustee of the now defunct Bordentown/Lenox School, which is being purchased by a religous organization, The Bible Speaks, from South Berwick, Maine.

A magna cum laude graduate of Harvard College in 1954, Monks also studied at Cambridge University in England and received a law degree from Harvard in 1958.

Robert M. McDonough

A survivor

This ancient house on a back road in Windsor has survived another winter — just barely.

HOOSAC TUNNEL, which links North Adams and the town of Florida, has been designated a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers, a national professional engineering organization. The 4.7-mile-long tunnel, completed in 1875, is the longest of its kind in the western hemisphere. View is from east portal in Florida.

Eagle 1-17-76

S. Lee relatively indifferent to possible post office closing

SOUTH LEE — Residents here protested far less than the residents of three other Berkshire County communities also threatened with the closing of their post offices, according to the top U.S. Postal Service employe in the county.

Joseph H. Nolan, the postmaster of the Pittsfield post office, said this morning that the post office customers in South Lee were "far more indifferent" than customers in North Egremont, Berkshire Village in Lanesboro, and Savoy.

But Nolan denied published reports that the service had already decided to close the South Lee facility, which is located on Main Street.

"It is wrong (to state) that any decision has been made yet. The process starts with me, and I haven't done anything yet. That will come in about two or three weeks, but we just aren't done with our study," Nolan said.

He added that his decision was only a recommendation, and that the fate of all post offices is determined first in the Springfield district office, then in the New York City regional office, and finally in the Washington D.C. national headquarters.

The postal service decided two weeks ago to close the North Egremont facility. The decisions on the Berkshire Village and Savoy post offices will be made after South Lee, Nolan said.

Nolan has also agreed to meet next week with the County Commissioners, who have indicated they want to do studies in all four areas before the facilities are actually shut.

In South Lee, the service received only one bid for a community post office — a facility that is contracted out to a private individual and is open part-time.

But Nolan said that Postal Service officials had been unable to contact the person who submitted the bid. "We need to talk to him to determine his intentions and facility," Nolan said. He refused to identify the bidder.

Nolan said that 139 South Lee customers were polled on whether they wanted their post office to remain open. Sixty-two said they wanted the facility to remain open and 18 said the post office should be closed. But 59 customers either did not respond to the questionnaire or said they did not care whether the South Lee post office remained open.

If the South Lee facility is closed, customers will receive their mail by rural delivery or at the Lee or Stockbridge post offices. Both of those post offices are about four miles from South Lee.

Former Lee resident seeks state Senate seat

5-15-76 Eagle

Atty. John T. Cinella Jr. of Melrose, son of Dr. Cinella of Lee, is a Republican candidate for state senator in a district that includes Melrose, Malden, Wakefield and Stoneham.

The Democratic incumbent, Sen. Stephen D. McGrail of Melrose, is not seeking re-election. Instead, he is running for a seat in Congress that is being vacated by Congressman Torbert Macdonald, D-Malden, who is not running for re-election.

Cinella is completing his fourth term on the Melrose Board of Aldermen. He is associated with the law firm of Killam & Killam of Melrose.

A 1957 graduate of Lee High School, where he was quarterback of the football team, Cinella attended Boston University School of Law and received a juris doctor degree from the New England School of Law, where he served as associate editor and alumni adviser to the New England Law Journal.

He is a member of the Massachusetts Bar and was admitted to the Bar of the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts in 1967. His wife is the former Rosemary Ann Sinopoli of Pittsfield.

John T. Cinella Jr.

Soules argues against Lee housing plan; cites drainage, playground 'shut-off'

LEE — A Martin Avenue resident last night continued his effort to block the construction of 20 new homes on the former Carrington property at East Street and Martin Avenue.

Harold Soules last night told the Selectmen of his objections to the project proposed by Westfield developer John S. Booke.

Soules said he feared the project would cause a drainage problem on Martin Avenue and would "shut off" the town playground near Tamarack and Martin avenues.

Soules said site preparation for the new development had already increased the water flow along Martin Avenue. He also suggested that the town take the playground by "eminent domain."

In asking the Selectmen to make sure that the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission scrutinize Booke's plans, Soules also argued that the town's school situation made the construction of the new homes an unwise proposition for the town.

"Those homes will mean more families and more children," Soules said. "The schools are crowded now and we're on double sessions. If the town votes to build the wing, things will be crowded for several years. The town needs housing, but not at this time with this school situation."

Soules' lot borders the 16-acre development site, which would include 20 homes costing between $29,000 and $33,000 on 20,000-square-foot lots.

Soules led a fight in 1974 that kept Booke from building a 36-unit apartment complex for low- and moderate-income families on the same property Booke now wants to to use for 20 single-family homes.

Other business

In other business last night, the Selectmen:

— Met in executive session for 70 minutes with the town's police officers to discuss the policemen's contract for next year. The current contract expires June 30. Last night was the first contract session. The Selectmen and policemen agreed on the executive session and details of the session were not released.

— Received notification from the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission (BCRPC) that the town's preliminary plans for a federal Housing and Urban Development grant had been approved. The town plans to use the $25,000 grant money, if received, to build kitchen and toilet facilities at the Railroad Street office building. BCRPC said the application had been forwarded to Washington for action.

20 new homes proposed in Lee

3/8/74

LEE — Westfield developer John S. Booke last week introduced plans to build 20 houses on the 16-acre former Carrington property at Martin Avenue and East Street.

The houses will be built on 20,000-square-foot lots and will range from three-bedroom ranch houses costing $29,000 to four bedroom Colonial-style houses costing $33,000, Booke said in an interview today. The lots will be serviced by town sewer and water.

Booke said he hopes to begin construction by June 1. Booke is working with B.R. Collins, Inc., a Westfield real estate company.

However, Booke has agreed to build a road that meets town requirements before beginning construction. The Planning Board has told Booke he must complete the road before beginning construction.

At a public hearing last Thursday night on the plans, Harold Soules, whose Martin Avenue lot borders the Booke development, asked the Planning Board and Conservation Commission to closely survey the Hartwood Farms property.

Soules said that he was worried about the drainage from the new development. He reported that the water flowing down Martin Avenue had increased since site preparation began on Hartwood Farms land.

Booke said he hopes to get Planning Board approval for his definitive plan by the middle of March.

Lee Republicans add four to slate

LEE — Four more Republicans have decided to seek nomination at the April 8 party caucus. The town election will be held May 17.

That brings to eight the number of candidates the Republicans have fielded to seek the 15 seats that will be contested.

The new candidates are Henry Piekos of Prospect Street, who will seek the three-year Selectman's seat held by Edward F. Murray, who has indicated he will not seek re-election; Nancy A. Warden of Landers Road, who will run for one of the two three-year terms available on the School Committee; David Bravo III of Orchard Street, who will run for a three-year term on the Board of Health, and the Rev. Walter S. Ryan of Park Place, will seek re-election to the Housing Authority.

Other Republicans who have announced are John Loring of Prospect Street, assessor; Gary W. Heath of Debra Avenue Planning Board; Charles Rand of Tabar Avenue, School Committee, and Richard Hommes of Pleasant Street, constable.

The Republican caucus will be April 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Democrats have candidates for all 15 offices except Loring's assessor's job. Their caucus will be April 9 from 7 to 9 at the Central School gym.

Town recreation department proposal will get further study from Lee board

LEE — The proposal to create a townwide recreation program under a Recreation Department with an annual budget of $23,500 received its toughtest scrutiny to date Monday night before the Finance Committee.

After an hour-long discussion, the Finance Committee voted to study the proposal further before making a final recommendation.

The Recreation Committee plan has already been approved by the Department of Public Works, the Selectmen and the School Committee.

The committee plans to submit two articles for the May town meeting warrant. One will ask the creation of a Recreation Department, and the other will ask $23,500 for programs and a full-time director.

The existing recreation program is carried on under the auspices of the DPW. The main recommendation of the Finance Committee was that the Recreation Committee consider remaining under the DPW for one year before becoming a separate entity.

"It seemed it might be impossible to launch all their programs simultaneously while they were on their own," said Beverly Y. Foley, chairman of the Finance Committee.

Another main Finance Committee concern involved the town's YMCA, whose precarious financial situation would get even shakier if a municipal recreation program were started.

The Finance Committee pointed out that the recreation department, as now planned, would be unable to use the more than $15,000 the Y gets annually from the Lee United Community Fund.

Town programs and groups are ineligible for United Fund money.

The Finance Committee asked the recreation group to explore means of getting that money should the Y have to close.

Lee Finance Committee backs building of wing

LEE — The Finance Committee last night recommended town meeting approval of an article that would build a wing at the Central School and recommended defeat for an article that would build a new Maple Street middle school.

The committee's recommendations come nine days before a town meeting votes to appropriate $1.47 million to build a wing or $3.6million to build a new middle school.

Finance Committee members said after the vote that they think there is "greater economic value in building the wing than the new school."

Committee members said they also considered the uncertainty of obtaining state aid for construction of a new middle school a critical factor in their recommendation.

"Taking the value of education versus the cost of the two projects with state funding so up in the air, we think the new wing is a better plan," said committee member Milton Gordon.

Landlord

Continued from page 1

from the hallways proved positive when tested for lead content, and advised that "any children living in this house should be moved to other suitable housing as soon as possible," and that the children "should be tested for lead poisoning."

There are four children living in the building, according to Murray, and Kolodziej said yesterday that the Lee Visiting Nurses Association administered the tests and is awaiting the results.

Kolodziej said the other major problems include an inadequate sewage disposal system and "general upkeep - the place is really dirty."

Murray said yesterday he has hired the engineering firm of Brown and Associates to make a study of the situation, and that he expects to correct the problems by next week.

Landlord Given Ultimatum

EAST LEE — Donald Murray, owner of an apartment house on Cape Street here, has been ordered by the Tri-Town sanitarian to correct several violations of the state sanitary code by February 27, or vacate the building.

The order came after sanitarian Peter J. Kolodziej made an inspection of the premises in January and subsequently found the building, a three-story, Victorian structure, "unfit for human habitation."

Fourteen residents currently reside in the building, in six rooms and three apartments.

Kolodziej charged in his letter to Murray that paint chips taken

Continued to page 18

Harris Photo

The owner of this three story, Victorian structure in East Lee has come under fire from the Tri-Town Sanitarian Peter J. Kolodziej for several violations of the state sanitary code.

Foley confirms that he will leave Lee's plan board

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

Francis D. Foley

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — Planning Board Chairman Francis D. Foley Jr. confirmed publicly today what he has been saying privately for months — that he will not seek re-election in May to the board he has served on for the past eight years.

"I think I've been on the board for long enough. It's time someone else went onto the Planning Board and tried to do his civic duty," said Foley, 45, a marketing executive at General Electric's ordnance division in Pittsfield.

Known for his bluntness and lengthy procedural questioning of developers and residents who came before his board, Foley has served as chairman for the past year. He was also chairman in 1970-73.

Time for other activities

Foley said he would devote more time to his family and to such activities as the Family Center for the Handicapped, Inc., of Stockbridge, which he serves as a member of the executive board, and to the Berkshire Council of the U.S. Navy League, of which he is vice president.

He will continue as chairman of the Democratic Town Committee.

Foley's wife, Beverly, is chairman of the town Finance Committee. The couple have three children.

Foley said he has no plans to seek another town office.

Lee Sons of Italy to elect new officers

LEE — The Lee Order of the Sons of Italy will elect new officers March 4 at 7:30 at the lodge. The new officers will be installed on May 2.

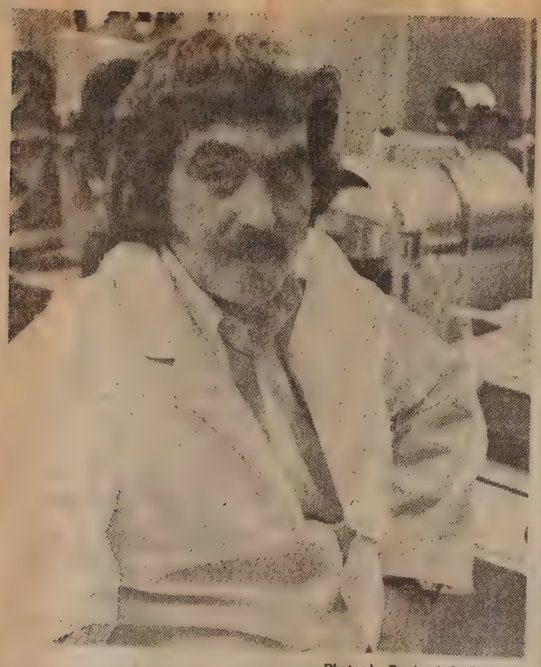
Michael Baluk is chairman of the nominating committee. Also on the committee are August Moser, Arthur Martin, Anthony Cardillo and Frank P. Consolati.

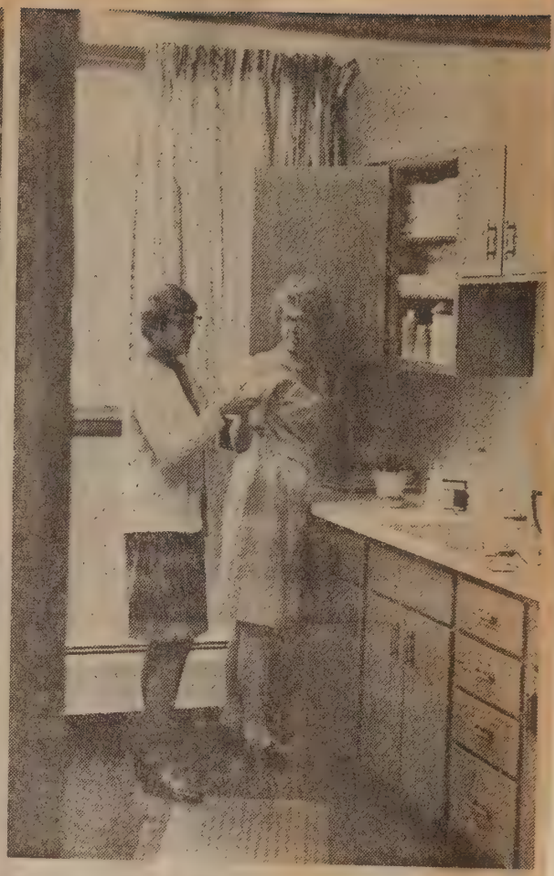
Foley Declines Re-election

LEE — Planning Board Chairman Francis D. Foley, Jr. announced this week he will not seek reelection in May. Foley, 45, has been a member of the Board for ten years, or three terms, two of which he served as chairman.

A native of Burlington, Vermont and a resident of Lee for 15 years, Foley said he will not seek any other town office, but will remain active on the town's Democratic committee. His wife, Beverly, currently is chairwoman of the town Finance Committee. The couple lives on Pease Terrace, and has three children.

Kane





Photos by Benjamin L. Ginsberg

NEW TENANTS of Lee's recently occupied Railroad Street office building (below) include Tri-Town Sanitarian Peter J. Kolodziej, above, and in right photo, medical secretary Nancy Garner, left, and Visiting Nurse Mildred Darby. The two women are standing in the Visiting Nurse's office. The cabinets in the office were donated by the Lee Kiwanis, Rotary and Lions clubs. Six town departments will be housed in the building.

Railroad St. building in Lee bustles as new home for agencies

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — More than 700 residents used the Railroad Street office building as a polling place last month. Tomorrow night a sizable crowd is expected for a square dance at the building's elderly citizens' center.

Each day, the business of four town departments is conducted in the building. A fifth and sixth are expected to move in soon to the multipurpose facility.

And according to the tenants of the 8,000-square-foot building, which was purchased nearly two years ago for $150,000 and will receive about $73,000 in renovation work by the end of next year, the money is well spent.

"It's much better for all of us," said Mildred Darby, the town's visiting nurse. "We have much more room to do our jobs and it is much more pleasant. At the Town Hall, people had to climb up 23 steps to get to our office, and that's not good for a nurse's office."

The building, painted a bright yellow and located within 20 feet of the Dogg House Bar and Grill, now houses the offices of the Visiting Nurse Association, the Department of Public Works, the tri-town sanitarian and the Lee Ambulance Service. Expected to move in shortly are the school superintendent's office and the Council on Aging.

The building also houses an elderly citizens' center and kitchen and the town's voting machines and polling place.

Included in the $150,000 purchase price was an 8,400-square-foot garage, now used for DPW vehicles, and space for a 100-car parking lot. The lot is slated for completion next year.

The building previously served as a warehouse and distribution center for the Bombardier East snowmobile company and was purchased by the town to alleviate overcrowding in the Town Hall. The Town Hall was so jammed before the purchase that the School Committee and tri-town sanitarian had to rent space in a private building.

Peter J. Kolodziej, the sanitarian, said in an interview yesterday in his instrument-filled office:

"It's really worked out well. Now I have the room to do everything I need to do. When I got the new space I was able to get the equipment I need for my work."

Kolodziej's office is next door to the VNA office, a convenience Kolodziej, Mrs. Darby and Mary Garner, a medical secretary who works in both offices, appreciate.

In the large waiting room outside the offices, walls have been decorated with paintings by four high school students: Mrs. Garner's daughter, Nancy, Bob Clark, Bob Heath and Paul Hood.

DPW Supt. J. Peter Scolforo, who moved from cramped quarters at the Town Hall to a much larger office in the building says his new office also affords the previously unavailable luxury of storage space for his piles of maps and plans.

A garage on the north side of the building now houses the Lee Ambulance Service. The garage will eventually be divided and a meeting room for the service built.

When the school superintendent Maurice J. Boulanger moves in, probably sometime next month, he and his two secretaries will enjoy a two-room, 700-square-foot office.

With the opening of the Railroad Street building, the Town Hall on Main Street now houses the Police Department, switchboard, tax collector, town clerk, the Lee District Court, and the offices of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, the building inspector, Selectmen, Board of Public Works and Planning Board.

(H)
39

1976

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

SIGN ANNOUNCING a liquidation sale marking the closing of Nejaime's Market on Housatonic Street in Lee adorns the store window. The sale will continue until the store's April 10 closing. The building, built in 1965, previously housed a laundry and dry-cleaning business, then a car salesroom. The market opened in 1972.

Nejaime is closing Lee market

LEE — Nejaime's Market on Housatonic Street here will close April 10 after 3½ years in business, owner Nabih Najaime confirmed today.

Nejaime said that most of the store's 15 employes would face layoffs. The owner said it was possible some employes would be given jobs at Nejaime's in Stockbridge, which will remain open.

A liquidation sale began this morning and will continue through April 10. All prices will be marked down 15 per cent, according to an advertisement in today's Eagle.

"It wasn't working out. We weren't making enough money," Nejaime said this morning. "A lot of things entered into our decision to close the store. Let's say the economy was the main factor."

Nejaime's was the third business to occupy the building since its construction in 1965. C. Marcel Brunell operated a laundry and dry-cleaning business and Aldo Delmolino of Stockbridge used the one-story structure as a car salesroom.

Nejaime indicated this morning that he would either sell or rent the building.

The success of Nejaime's Market was hampered by Price Chopper and Adams supermarkets, which operate nearby in this town of 6,400.

"We hope to take care of all the people who appreciate our business and the quality of our products at our Stockbridge market," Nejaime said, announcing that the hours of the Stockbridge store would be extended to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The store now closes at 6 on those days.

5/13/76
Eagle

Murray takes leave of Lee board after nine years

LEE — Edward F. Murray left the Board of Selectmen after nine years of service Monday night amidst expression of thanks and admiration from his fellow town officials.

Murray, 48, of 137 Summer St. decided not to seek election for a fourth three-year term. He is the lone Republican on the board.

Martin H. Deely and Joseph J. Castronova praised their fellow selectman's "excellent service" on the board.

Murray replied that it had been his pleasure to serve on the town board, and he thanked his comrades for their "good friendship."

Before being elected a selectman in 1967, Murray served for two years on the Planning Board.

He is employed by the New England Telephone Co. He and his wife, the former E. Gloria Fuller of Lee, have three children.

Lee court continues gun law charges

LEE — The case against two New York City brothers for violation of the state's firearm control law was continued to Monday in Lee District Court yesterday.

The brothers, Lawrence F. Steigard, 24, and Jacques Steigard, 29, both of Central Park South, were arrested by the Stockbridge police Saturday afternoon on the grounds of the Stockbridge School. They were charged with possession of a .22 rifle.

The brothers posted $200 cash bail Saturday evening. A motion to reduce the bail was denied by Judge Robert J. Donelan yesterday.

Conviction of possessing a firearm without a gun permit in Massachusetts carries a mandatory one-year jail sentence.

Bus runs being expanded as assist to commuters

The Berkshire Regional Transit Authority will expand the hours of its bus service beginning Monday to serve persons who want to use its buses to commute to and from work.

"We've had many requests for this," M. Michael Muzyka, BRTA administrator, said this morning.

Under the new schedule, the buses on the Pittsfield-Lenox-Lee route will operate from 6:10 a.m. to 6:40 p.m. The Pittsfield-Lanesboro line will run from 6:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. At present, the buses operate only from 8 to 4.

Muzyka said the hours of service at present, particularly the 4 p.m. daily termination of service, are not adequate to meet the needs of commuters.

A copy of the new, expanded schedule was published in a BRTA advertisement in yesterday's Eagle and information on the schedule can be obtained by calling the BRTA office.

In other developments, Muzyka said the BRTA will discuss tomorrow night a request by residents of Turnure Terrace, a housing project for the elderly in Lenox, for regular BRTA service there. In January the BRTA began a three-week trial of service there but claimed ridership was inadequate to support regular service. Residents maintain there is a sufficient demand for service there and assert a stop would not upset the BRTA's regular Pittsfield-Lenox-Lee run.

The BRTA has scheduled a public hearing for 7:30 on May 3 at the Western Mass. Electric Co. auditorium at 333 West St. on its application to the federal Urban Mass Transit Administration (UMTA) for a $670,000 grant to buy 10 buses, fare boxes, bus stop signs and bus shelters.

Pg 30

Stephen Seche

ALSO SELECTED for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places is the William Cullen Bryant "Marriage House" in Great Barrington, also known as the Dwight-Henderson House.

Cont Pg

...orking on Volume 2 of memoirs

...shed first volume has been greeted with praise

Organization, Shirer told this reporter last week, takes up the largest part of his work day. As he progresses on the second volume of his memoirs, "20th Century Journey," Shirer strives to match his memories with the physical data he has amassed during his long and adventurous life as a foreign correspondent, world traveler and compulsive packrat.

The first volume of his memoirs, published Sept. 13, has been generally greeted with praise. It went into a second printing almost at once. Covering the years from 1904 to 1930, the book details the growing up of a young man and a young nation. The narrative moves from his mild days in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to his soiled-trenchcoat years as a correspondent in Paris.

The general conception of life on the Left Bank in the 1920s, Shirer said, is grounded more in romance than realism. Working with the likes of James Thurber was stimulating, but it was still work.

"There was a lot of hard work and drudgery," Shirer said of his days as a foreign correspondent.

There were meetings to attend and trains to catch, while luxuries like sleep were postponed or exchanged for catnaps in hard chairs.

But Shirer was always aware that the events he witnessed and the people he met interviewed would one day provide the substance for a piece of writing more lengthy than the close-clipped cables he and his colleagues dispatched.

"Like every newspaperman," Shirer said, "I always had books in the back of my mind."

Unlike the aspiring authors who people newsrooms everywhere, Shirer acted on his ambition to document and preserve his experiences in Paris, Nazi Germany, India and the other capitals, foreign and domestic, where he reported and lived half a century's worth of major news stories.

Drawing on his ever-present pipe, Shirer said that luck, urged forward by perseverance, provided him with the opportunities and experiences that he shaped into best selling non-fiction.

"I was awfully lucky," he said. "I don't believe in God, so I say it was luck."

It took more than good fortune for Shirer to evolve from a writer of terse dispatches to a writer of long books. He said he had to unlearn a complicated professional language dubbed "cablese" that correspondents created as they sent sparsely worded cables to cost-conscious editors who discouraged elaborate prose as the sending rates approached $1 per word.

His success at unlearning the choppy, arid prose of his former profession is attested to by the critical praise that greeted "The Rise and Fall," "Berlin Diary" and "20th Century Journey."

His "The Collapse of the Third Republic: An Inquiry into the Fall of France in 1940," received good reviews in some quarters but was pummeled by the New York Times shortly after its publication in 1969.

He said that age has, at least, thickened his skin when the reviews are harsh. He conceded that a good review is pleasant for the ego, but he said he would rather read a thoughtful attack than suffer vapid praise from a critic who didn't understand the text.

Superficial reviews, he said, are the product of superficial people who have not had enough experiences to deepen and qualify their perspectives. Shirer places the highest premium on experience and suggests that one embrace as much of it as one can. The only people he exempts from that recommendation are geniuses.

"A genius," he said, "is a person who doesn't have to experience anything."

Three Lee businessmen join forces to keep local institutions open

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — Three young, local entrepreneurs have joined forces to put a new face on a supermarket that has become an institution here — the Main Street Market.

Twenty-four-year-old Marc Wheeler, 25-year-old Ed Rossi and 32-year-old Jim Herlihy have added imported Italian foods, fresh fish and a variety of salads to the meat supply and canned goods that Julio Bartini, the former owner, had in the store.

Bartini, still lively at 72, will continue to work in the store on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

All three new owners have roots in the Lee business community. Wheeler is proprietor of the Lee Pharmacy, which is next door to the market. Rossi's family owns Rossi's Restaurant, on the same block of Main Street as the market. Herlihy, who will be the butcher, has worked for the last few years as a butcher in another local supermarket.

The heart of the new store will be its meats, fresh fish, deli foods and Italian imports.

The fish includes lobsters, clams, scrod, sole, haddock, perch, smelts and scallops. The deli foods range from luncheon meats to freshly made salads to homemade cheesecake. The Italian imports will include olive oil, imported macaroni and a variety of imported cheeses.

An array of convenience canned goods have been carried over from Bartini's tenure.

"We will be successful," Wheeler says confidently, "because our food is of better quality, the service is much more personal, and you get to see your own piece of meat or fish cut."

Wheeler also said that prices would be "comparable" to those of other stores and supermarkets here.

The trio has redecorated the interior of the store with fresh paint, a new floor and the addition of music.

Plans for the future call for the addition of baked goods and a catering service that will prepare deli platters for parties of all sizes.

The market is open Mondays through Fridays from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

TRADITION in Lee is being kept alive by three businessmen who have taken over the Main Street Market. New operators are, left to right, Ed Rossi, Jim Herlihy and Marc Wheeler. The market was founded by Julio Bartini, who will continue to lend a hand to help the new owners.

3-9-76 Eagle

Kanter

Paul F. Nigrini

Alford man to manage bank in Lee

LEE — Paul F. Negrini of Alford has been named office manager at Berkshire Bank & Trust Company's office here. Negrini previously was assistant manager of the bank's Great Barrington office, according to an announcement from President Edward K. Ward Jr.

Negrini will be responsible for managing the Lee office and for developing business around the town.

He graduated from Berkshire Bank's management-training program and has also worked as a BankAmericard sales representative.

Negrini is a graduate of Williams High School in Stockbridge and Franklin Pierce College in New Hampshire, where he received a bachelor of science degree in psychology.

Active in Great Barrington community affairs, he is the former treasurer of the Great Barrington Chamber of Commerce and participated in the Heart Fund of Great Barrington a t the John Watson Community Christmas Cheer Committee.

Negrini served as a 1st lieutenant in the U.S. Army in Vietnam and is currently commander of Company C of the Army National Guard in Pittsfield

Decision set tomorrow on Lee houses

LEE — The Planning Board will decide tomorrow night whether to approve developer John S. Booke's definitive plan for 20 houses off East Street near Martin Avenue on the former Carrington property.

The board will conduct a site inspection tomorrow at 5 p.m. before the vote to check the drainage from the property onto Martin Avenue. That action is being taken at the request of Harold Soules of 4 Martin Ave.

Booke's plan on the 16-acre development tract calls for the construction of 20 homes costing from $29,000 to $33,000 on 20,000-square-foot lots.

Booke appeared before the board last night with his attorney, Philip F. Heller of Pittsfield to discuss the covenant for the development. Booke has agreed to build a road through the development that meets town standards. The development will be serviced by town sewer and water.

In other business, the board:

—Refused a sign permit for Garrity's Garage on Water Street in East Lee and ordered town building inspector Edward M. Briggs to inform the owners of the Main Street Market to remove two signs on the front of their store until they get the proper sign permits.

— Said that the vacancy on the board caused last week by the resignation of William B. Navin should remain unfilled until the May 17 town election. A new member will be elected to fill Navin's term, which runs until 1979. A member will also be elected for a five-year term in the May 17 election.

Lee death is ruled homicide

Several suspects reported under investigation

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — The Thursday afternoon death of 71-year-old Donald A. Murray Sr. in his Park Street apartment was officially ruled a homicide yesterday following an autopsy by a state police pathologist.

Dr. George Katsas of Boston said Murray suffered a fractured skull from a blunt instrument as well as smoke inhalation and possible carbon monoxide poisoning from a fire set in his apartment.

Alive when fire began

State Police Detective Lt. Roy F. Sibley and Police Chief John J. Boyne, who are heading the investigation of the death, termed the fire "of suspicious origin," and said:

"The head injuries were caused just prior to the fire. Either could have caused the death. Murray was incapacitated by the head injuries. He was alive, but unconscious, when the fire started."

Boyne and Sibley said there were "several suspects" in the homicide and the police were "satisfied as to the progress of the investigation." They refused to comment on any of the suspects and declined to speculate on a motive for the killing.

Dr. Katsas said the time of death was "approximately" noon Thursday. Murray's body was discovered at about 2:44 Thursday afternoon after his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Donald A. Murray Jr., returned home to find the five-room apartment they shared with the elder Murray filled with smoke.

The police said several possible murder weapons and pieces of evidence were being sent to the state police crime laboratories in Boston for further study.

Unable to enter, they called the Lee Fire Department. Firemen wearing air masks found Murray's body lying next to his bed. Fire damage was contained to the elder Murray's bedroom, although all five rooms suffered heavy smoke damage.

Boyne and Sibley, who are in charge of fire marshal's investigations in the county, described the fire as "smouldering" and said it was started in the mattress of the elder Murray's bed.

The Park Street apartment is one of two in a building located in back of the Berkshire Bank and Trust Co. The younger Murray and his wife, Susan, are both teachers at Lee High School.

Retired brakeman

The elder Murray moved to Lee five years ago from Rockland, where he was a retired brakeman for the New Haven Railroad. He also worked as a switchboard operator for the town for several years.

He was a member of the John Cutler Lodge of Abington, the Lee Golden Agers and the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen.

Besides his son, he is survived by a brother, Stephen Murray of Wareham, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. His wife, the former Ella Atwood, died in 1966.

Funeral services at the Kelly Funeral Home of Lee will be Monday at 10. Burial will be in the Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Rockland.

Calling hours at the funeral home are Sunday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9. Members of the Evening Star Lodge of Lee will hold a Masonic service at the funeral home Sunday night at 8.

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

BROKEN WINDOWS mark the apartment in which 71-year-old Donald Murray died. Firemen broke the windows fighting the fire in the rooms. Lee Police Chief John J. Boyne, left, speaks with officer Adelarde J. Laliberte. At right is Det. Lt. Roy F. Sibley, who is in charge of fire investigations. Story on Page 1.

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Lee YMCA Branch To Expand Services; Considers Moving

LEE — Executives of the Pittsfield YMCA announced this week that the organization is considering expanding the services of its Lee branch to the rest of South Berkshire — possibly to the extent of moving that branch's offices to Great Barrington at a future date. A meeting to discuss the expansion will be held Wednesday evening in Stockbridge.

Both David Eliot, executive director of the Lee branch, and James Wellspeak, chairman of the Lee branch, noted that the branch must expand "its base of population." Eliot said that while it might be a "long range plan," he noted that in order to serve all of South Berkshire, it might facilitate matters to "have our office there in a more central location."

Wellspeak said yesterday that two months ago, the Lee branch dropped the price of its membership fees and raised the price of its individual program fees. He said a campaign is currently underway in South Berkshire to determine program needs, and that the "response has been tremendous."

He noted that the branch may become a "non-facility 'Y'," in that the branch would be headquartered only in an office, and that facilities in each community be utilized for the organization's programs.

Wellspeak emphasized that the change of location and format under discussion is not related to the emergence of a possible recreation program in Lee. Appearing on the ballot in that town at the May town meeting will be an article proposing the formation of a department of recreation, and one proposing that $21,500 be raised to finance such a department, which would initially come under the auspices of the town Department of Public Works.

Wellspeak, who is also a member of the committee appointed to study the feasibility of a recreation department in Lee, has noted in public meetings on the matter that should such a department be instituted, it may spell the end of Lee's YMCA branch.

The Lee branch has occupied the former Hyde Mansion on West Park Street since 1968.

State aid for Lee sewers seen too good to turn down

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — How can the town afford to turn down a $4.7 million sewer expansion project of which the government will pay $4 million?

That was the sentiment expressed last night by the 65 residents attending a public hearing on the five town meeting articles that comprise the project.

If town meeting representatives pass the articles on May 13, 2,080 permanent residents and about 385 industrial employees will be added to the town's sewer system. The Board of Public Works plans to seek a $700,000 bond issue to cover the entire project if the articles are passed. A 10-year bond would add about $2 to the tax rate each year, according to the board's estimates.

The sewers included in the project would add about 250,000 gallons per day to the flow through the town's wastewater treatment plant. David Lenart, the board's consultant, said that would increase the daily flow to 710,000 gallons. The plant has a capacity of one million gallons per day.

"It can be anticipated that the design capacity of the existing wastewater treatment plant will not be exceeded until approximately the year 1998," the DPW said in its written presentation on the project.

If approved on May 13, contracts for the project can be signed by November, with work beginning in late winter or next spring, according to J. Peter Scolforo, the DPW superintendent. He said the project would take about 2½ years to complete.

Paul Kneuer, the head of the Public Works Board, said last night that the town also plans to seek government funding for 1977 to install sewers on all streets in town that are not now on the municipal system or included in the current project.

The state's Water Resources Commission announced last month that it would provide funding for both lateral and collector sewer lines. The commission had previously only offered money for collectors. The town had expected to receive about $1.9 million for collector lines. Collectors receive the flow of two lateral lines.

The largest of the five articles on the May 13 warrant is for South Lee and asks voters to appropriate $334,000 for the $2.47 million project.

South Lee does not currently have any sewer system and the Board of Health has cited the area as a potential health hazard. The article would finance a comprehensive project for the area including gravity flow lines, pump stations and force mains. Streets that would be sewered are Route 102, Main Street, Highfield Drive, parts of Fairview and Meadow streets, and all of Church, Davis, Pine and Willow streets.

The second largest article asks representatives to raise $119,540 as the town's share of a $760,200 project that includes a main line from Tyringham Road along Route 20 to about 400 feet east of the intersection of Maple and Cape streets in East Lee. Sewered would be Water, Chapel and Silver streets and parts of Cape and Forest streets.

Another article asks $98,940 as the town's share of a $734,005 project to install a trunk line from the treatment plant on Route 102 across Marble Street following the Willow Brook to the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority's system. The line would eliminate the Fairview Street pumping station and would also include a main line to part of Fairview Street.

Still another article seeks $94,190 for a $506,050 project to build a line from Stockbridge Road along Willow Brook to Devon Road and includes parts of George and Spring streets.

The final article seeks $46,325 from town residents to complete a $231,625 project installing a line from the intersection of Housatonic and Fuller streets to Leonard Avenue with lateral lines on Maple and Greylock streets.

New streetlights proposed in Lee

LEE — Town officials are considering changing 33 incandesant street lights to mercury vapor lights in an effort to gain efficiency at a small increase in cost.

The Western Mass. Electric Co. (WMEC) Monday night told the Selectmen and Department of Public Works that the change would provide 85.7 per cent more light. WMEC estimated that the new lights will increase the town's electric bill by a total of $1.79 per month.

In other business Monday, the Selectmen:

— Heard from Town Counsel James P. Dohoney that he had called Fair Share about its insistence that it be granted a door-to-door solicitation permit. The board last week tabled the request and directed Dohoney to call the organization. Dohoney reported that the group's chief counsel had not returned his call.

— Received a letter from Edward J. Flynn of Plunkett Street, Lenox, who said he has posted his land between the Laurel Lake boat ramp on Route 20 and the Holiday Inn and wants trespassers prosecuted. The land has been the source of complaints because it is often littered and unsightly.

— Were told by the Assessors that the hearing in Boston on the town's equalized tax valuation would be on Aug. 16, with a preliminary meeting with officials of the state Department of Corporations and Taxation on Aug. 10. The town is seeking to have its valuation changed in an effort to secure more state funds.

The Berkshire Eagle

Lee to sue for $22,000 in gas company sign dispute

LEE — Town officials decided last night to file suit in District Court to collect more than $22,000 from the Callahan Oil Co. of Norwich, Conn., for violation of the town's sign bylaw.

Superior Court Judge Andrea F. Nuciforo last month ruled that a 64-square-foot sign at the Lehigh Gas Station on Housatonic Street had been in violation of the bylaw since August 13, 1974, because of its size. The maximum size allowed is 16-square-feet. Callahan erected the sign shortly after they purchased the gasoline station.

The town bylaw carries a provision for a $40-a-day fine.

The Selectmen said last week they did not think the town "should seek blood after winning the decision," but Planning Board members indicated they wanted to file the suit. Last night's meeting between the two boards was to resolve the disagreement.

The Selectmen were persuaded by Planning Board member Dana P. LaDuke's argument that Callahan had shown bad faith with the town since it opened for business.

LaDuke cited the company's action over a smaller, 16-square-foot sign which was not included in Nuciforo's ruling. The company has never formally applied for a permit for either sign.

But the company said at the Superior Court hearing last October that it would immediately apply for a permit for the smaller sign if it were dropped from the town's suit. The smaller sign meets the requirements of the town bylaw. Callahan still has not applied for a permit.

The town agreed, but LaDuke pointed out last night that the company has never sought a permit for the sign.

"They have not shown good faith with either sign," LaDuke said. "They have done nothing but thumb their noses at the town since they came here."

The Selectmen last night directed Town Counsel James P. Dohoney to arrange a meeting with lawyers for Callahan to inform them that the town was filing suit to collect the fine.

New sign.

Dairy chain opens second store in Lee

LEE — The town's second Cumberland Farms Dairy Store opened earlier this week at the Park Plaza shopping center.

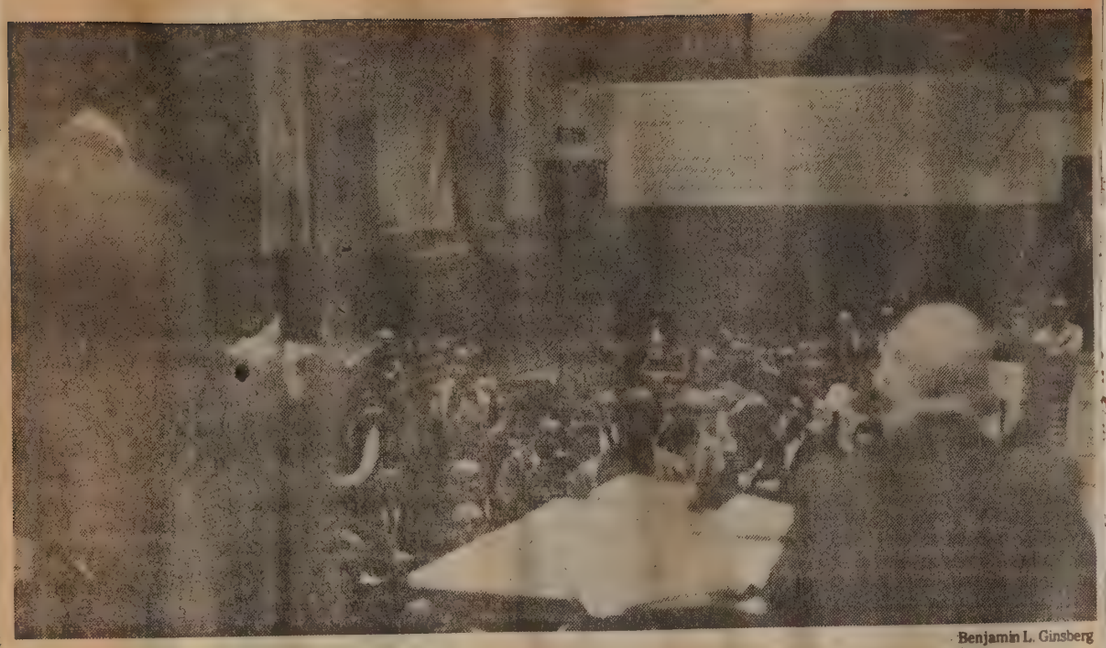
The new store, which will be open daily from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., is also a Cumberland Farms gas station.

The chain's current store, located at 274 Main St., will remain open, according to Richard A. Binder of the chain's headquarters in Canton.

That store is located in a building owned by Mario Tristany, and has been the home of Cumberland Farms since 1963. It housed a Norwood's dairy store from 1960 to 1963.

The new store is located in the former Arco Service Station, which Cumberland Farms bought for $99,544.86.

Eagle 5/15/76



Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE town meeting representatives listen last night while District 2 representative John E. DeVarennes, center foreground, makes a point. Standing on stage is Moderator Henry M. Donahoe. Seated is Town Clerk John J. Nagle. The meeting lasted for more than three hours and appropriated a total of $4,370,337.

Lee takes 60 seconds to approve sewers

LEE — Representatives took only one minute of their three-hour annual town meeting last night to approve the most far-ranging item on the warrant — a $700,000 appropriation that will be the town's share of a $4.7 million sewer-expansion project.

The representatives spent the rest of their time discussing 39 articles and approving expenditures of $4,370,337. The largest amounts of money will go to the operation of town schools ($2,176,440) and town government ($744,245).

Three articles asking funds for large capital expenditures were defeated, as representatives declared their desire to hold down the tax rate this year. Next year taxpayers will begin paying for the $1,471,000 middle-school wing that was approved at a special town meeting last March.

The uncontested passage of the sewer system was due mainly to the philosophy, expressed at an informational town meeting last week, that it would be irresponsible to turn down $4 million in government aid for a project that will place facilities for 2,080 permanent residents and 385 industrial employes on the municipal system.

The project will sewer streets in all sections of town and should be completed in three years. South Lee, beset by escalating sewer problems in the last few years, will receive the most money.

More than asked for

The $744,245 appropriated for the operation of the town government is about $80,000 more than last year. And one department, the Fire Department, came away from the meeting with more money than proposed in the warrant.

Fire Chief Ottavio B. Giarolo protested the $31,709 recommended by the Selectmen and Finance Committee for the operation of his department. Giarolo protested that his original budget had included $358 more so that Giarolo could give his four officers a 6 per cent pay raise.

"We decided that part-time employes would not get 6 per cent raises this year," Selectmen Chairman Edward F. Murray explained.

That brought an angry retort from Giarolo. "You keep calling us part-time," he said. "But we're on call 24 hours a day. We had to spend New Year's Eve at the East Lee Package Store (fighting a fire). My men should get those raises just like other employes."

Reject recreation plan

Two articles related to setting up a town recreation department failed. Representatives turned down a request for $21,500 to hire a director of recreation to set up a comprehensive, townwide program. A companion article to establish a separate recreation department was passed over at the request of its proponents, who thought their plan would be more palatable if the program remained under the Department of Public Works for at least one year of transition. Opponents of the program argued that the town could not afford an annual expenditure of more than $20,000 and maintained that the town's needs were satisfied by existing baseball, basketball and football leagues.

Heating system defeated

The other major capital expense that was defeated asked $50,000 for a new Town Hall heating system. Proponents of the article, led by District 4 representative William F. Powers, argued that the current system is antiquated, inefficient and wastes fuel. The [illegible]

15-minute debate

Despite protests from Selectman Martin H. Deely that granting Giarolo's request would mean all part-time employes would be eligible for raises, the representatives overwhelmingly voted to raise the Fire Department budget to $32,065.70. The debate took 15 minutes.

In other town-meeting action, the representatives:

— Passed without dissent the Scenic Roads Act for Fernside, Woodland, Lenox Dale, Golden Hill, Beartown Mountain, and Washington Mountain Roads; for Summer, Church and Meadow streets and Laurel Lake Crossroads. The act, which caused a 45-minute debate at the informational meeting last week, was passed without dissent.

— Were told by Moderator Henry M. Donahoe that they could not pass an article authorizing the use of free cash available at the time of the computation of the tax levy to reduce the tax rate. Donahoe, after conferring with the assessors and Finance Committee chairman Beverly Y. Foley, said that the article would have to include an exact amount. However, the exact amount varies from day to day. The free cash can still be used, but a special town meeting will have to approve the article when the exact amount is known. Officials hope to use about $140,000 in available cash to keep the tax rate low.

— Approved articles appropriating a total of $22,100 from revenue sharing to purchase a four-wheel drive pickup truck and a new dump truck the DPW.

— Passed articles setting the rights of way on Church and Marble streets. The articles involved the taking of individuals' land.

— Approved the raising of $6,000 to continue the renovation of the exterior of Town Hall.

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William M. Murphy
Selectman candidate

Henry Piekos
Selectman candidate

William F. Tyer Jr.
Selectman candidate

John H. Dolan
School board candidate

Charles E. Rand
School board candidate

Nancy A. Warden
School board candidate

David M. Parker
School board candidate

Joseph F. Puleri
School board candidate

Lester J. Clarke
Health board candidate

David Bravo III
Health board candidate

Road building is 10 years away

Lee-bypass study promised before July

LEE — State Department of Public Works (DPW) officials last night promised that a feasibility study for a Lee bypass would be completed by the end of June, but also said that a bypass was "at the very least" 10 years from completion.

The DPW officials made the statement at a Selectmen's meeting, which the board requested after learning last month that the feasibility study would be included as part of a countywide survey of transportation needs.

The town, fighting for several years to have a bypass built, had wanted the study done separately from the countywide survey. The Selectmen have maintained that Lee has a unique problem because the nearby Massachusetts Turnpike interchange makes Route 20, the town's main street, the major thoroughfare for the county's northerly traffic.

The state DPW officials attending last night's meeting were Gerald Rourke, a planner in the DPW's Boston office; Dean P. Amidon, the district highway engineer, and Robert Duffy, the district project engineer.

The countywide transportation study will be done by Curran & Associates, Inc., of Northampton and will take an estimated two years to complete.

Rourke last night promised that the Lee feasibility study enjoyed "one of the highest priorities in the survey." Rourke also said the feasibility study would be completed by the end of June, in accordance with a resolution passed by the state legislature last year.

But Selectman Martin H. Deely, becoming visibly angry at times, said he was still not satisfied.

"We want to stay away from the countywide bypass study," Deely said. "We want to solve the specific problem we have in Lee. Why do we have to be part of the countywide study?"

Deely said he wanted the Lee bypass to remain separate because "there are people in the county who just don't want to build any new roads and they'll do anything they can to block new road construction. We have a better chance of solving our problem if we keep it within the confines of Lee.

Deely said the group that wanted to stop all road construction in the county was the Transportation Advisory Group (TAG), a citizens organization which is involved through the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission in county transportation.

The Selectmen last night said evidence for support of a Lee bypass was the vote taken at last May's town election which approved by a 3-2 margin a resolution calling for a bypass through westerly sections of town.

Selectman Edward F. Murray said the Lee bypass was necessary because "we have a terrific traffic problem through the center of town. This talk about the bypass has been stalled for years and years but traffic through town keeps on increasing by 5 and 10 per cent a year."

In a joking moment Deely suggested that the best way to get a bypass built in Lee would be to condemn the iron bridge that crosses the Housatonic River on Center Street near Laurel Street.

"Can you do that?" Deely asked the state DPW officials. "Then we'll get a bypass in here quickly."

ch Lee junior high

2 county men named vice presidents of Mead Specialty Paper Division

LEE — The specialty paper division of the Mead Corp. has announced the appointment of Clayton E. Burke of Stockbridge as vice president - administration, and E. Kenneth Bancroft of Lenox, vice president - operations.

The appointments were announced by Thomas H. Pering, president and general manager of the division.

Since graduating in 1958 with a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering from the University of Michigan, Burke has acquired a broad background of experience during his 18-year career with Mead.

He joined Mead in Chillicothe, Ohio, as an engineering trainee, and transferred to South Lee in 1959 as a product development engineer. After holding several engineering, production, and sales positions, he became sales manager of decorative products in 1971, prior to being named manager, planning and administration in 1973.

As vice president - administration, his responsibilities include development of the division's long-range business strategy and annual operating plans, as well as the direction of the division's financial accounting, cost accounting, and data processing activities.

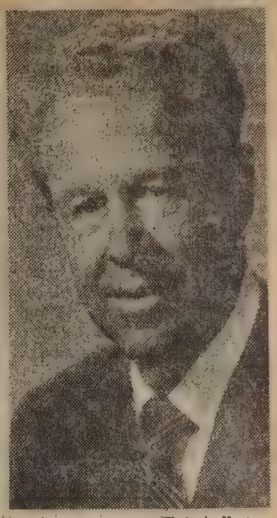
Burke, his wife Suzanne, and their four daughters live on Lukeman Lane, Stockbridge. He is a past member of both the Stockbridge Planning Board and the town Finance Committee, and is currently alive in the Stockbridge Lions Club and the town Republican Committee.

Bancroft is a graduate of Brown University with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering. He joined Hurlbut Paper Co. in January 1956 as director of engineering, a position he held when Mead acquired Hurlbut early in 1958.

Subsequent assignments retained the engineering responsibilities and added exposure to technical product development and plant management. In 1966, he became manager of the Hurlbut Paper mills, and in 1970, his responsibilities broadened to include paper manufacturing at a divisional paper mill in Ohio and involvement with an affiliate mill in New York State. In 1972, he was appointed division manufacturing manager, adding management responsibilities for the Morart Printing Plant in South Lee, and the Oxford-Engraving Plant in Dayton, Ohio.

As vice president-operations, he is responsible for the management of manufacturing activities involving production, technical support, customer service, product development, engineering services and material procurement.

Clayton E. Burke



E. Kenneth Bancroft

Photos by Kanter

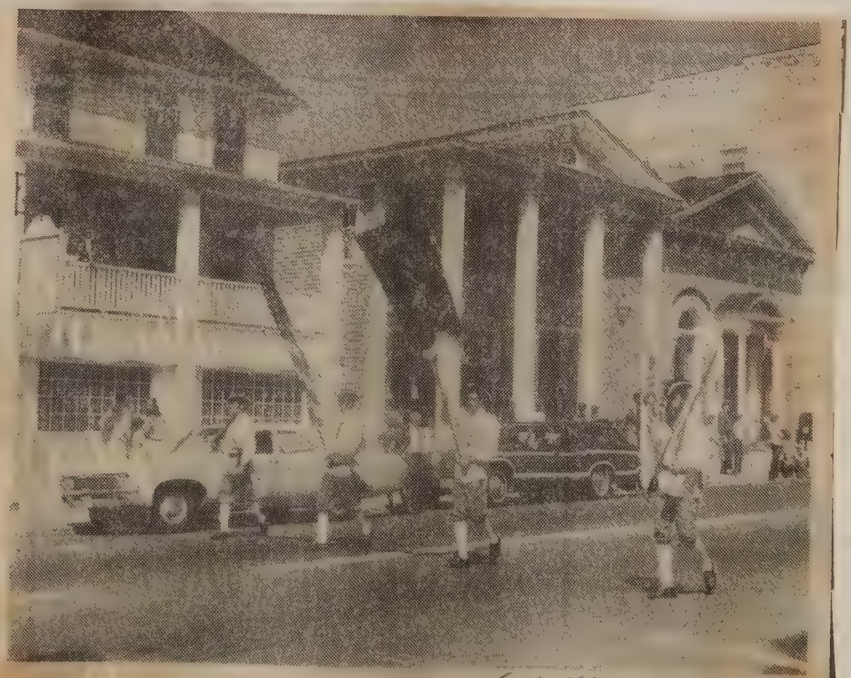
Bancroft, his wife, Katherine, and son, Steven, live on Walker Street, Lenox. Over the years, he as been active in Lenox town affairs, serving on a number of committees, and was a long-term member of the Planning Board.

Laminating industry

Mead specialty paper is a major producer and printer of papers for the decorative plastic laminating industry which provides surfacing for walls, countertops, cabinets and furniture. The division also manufactures a wide range of specialty papers for photographic, automotive, high heat insulation, and air and liquid filtration end use.

Berkshire Courier 10/21/76

LEE — The G. Marconi Lodge 1620, Lee Order, Sons of Italy held its 39th annual Columbus Day Dinner-Dance recently, with nearly 100 members and guests in attendance. Among those enjoying the fun were (above, left to right), Lucy Boldyga, Venerable Joseph Boldyga; Carl Bovina, Grand Deputy; Louise Giracca, and Master of Ceremonies Frank Consolati.



6-1-76 Frank V. McCarthy

LEE celebrated Memorial Day with the annual parade sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. More than 30 units participated. Above, members of the Evening Star Lodge AF & AM march past the Morgan House. The parade lasted about one hour.

Lee Selectman suggests convention motel feasible

8-17-76 Eagle

LEE — Saying many friends of his from Boston and New York City had told him "Lee is missing the boat," Selectman William Murphy last night said he would initiate a project to have a large motel and convention center built along Route 102.

"We're just not putting to use the fact that we have an exit here," Murphy told his fellow Selectmen at last night's meeting.

Murphy said he had not done any research on the project yet, just that he thought a Berkshire County motel/center "would be a good idea." He said he did not have any idea how big the complex should be.

"Many people would like to visit the Berkshires for a convention. But there's really no place around here to have a convention. All we have now is Pittsfield," he said.

Murphy said location of the complex on Route 102 would mean added business for the town's merchants.

"I was at the state Knights of Columbus convention in Boston earlier this month," the first-year Selectman said. "And like most guys going to a convention. I took my wife out and we did some shopping. And I thought that if we had a big enough facility around here, then more people could go shopping in Lee."

Murphy bemoaned the lack of a local movie theatre, and said the complex could also have such a facility.

At another point during his 10-minute explanation of his idea, Murphy suggested that a sports complex "like the Springfield Civic Center" also be built within the motel/convention complex.

However, he did caution that "we already have a lot of traffic," and said that congestion could become a larger problem if the complex were built.

Murphy's fellow Selectmen, Chairman Martin H. Deely and Joseph J. Castronova termed Murphy's idea "interesting" and suggested he pursue the idea with the County Commissioners.

Health assn. board to meet tonight

WORTHINGTON — The directors of the Worthington Health Association will meet tonight at 7:30 at the Cummington Community House. Topics on the agenda are building renovation, election of a president and hiring of an administrator. The meeting is open to any interested member.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Robert A. Logan III

Lee man named dept. chairman at Conn. college

LEE — Robert A. Logan III, who recently purchased a house on Golden Hill Road, has been appointed chairman of the English department at the University of Hartford.

Logan's specialities in English literature are poetry, Shakespeare and the Renaissance period. He is a graduate of Williams College where he earned a bachelor of arts degree and Harvard University where he earned a master of arts degree in 1957 and a doctor of philosophy degree in 1962.

He has been an associate professor at the University of Hartford since 1971. He plans to commute to Hartford.

Intersection crash injures Lee driver

LEE — A 19-year-old Washington Mountain Road man was treated and released at the Pittsfield General unit, BMC, yesterday afternoon after being involved in a two-car accident at the intersection of East Center and Greylock streets.

Lee police said John R. Dallaire was traveling north on Greylock Street, stopped at a stop sign, and then proceeded into the intersection, where his car was in collision with one driven by Glen D. Wilson, 18, of 5 Navin Heights.

Police said Wilson was proceeding west on East Center Street, and did not have a stop sign at the intersection.

Dallaire suffered face lacerations and a hip abrasion. Wilson was not injured, the police said.

No charges have been filed, but the police said the accident was still under investigation.

The Greylock-East Center streets intersection has been the scene of frequent accidents.

Film, Magicubes, Polaroid. Wheeler's Lee Pharmacy — Adv.

Berkshire Courier 8-19, 1976

Harris Photo

Lee Selectmen Chairman Martin H. Deely announced this week that he would not seek reelection to the Board upon expiration of his term in May

SBCA office moves in Lee to Town Hall

10/20/76

LEE — Southern Berkshire Community Action (SBCA) officially moved its office today from the YMCA building on West Park Street to the second floor of the Town Hall.

Ida Hitchcock will be in the large conference room from 9 to noon and 1 to 5 Mondays through Fridays.

Ms. Hitchcock will provide the same services that were provided in the old SBCA office at the Y. They include rental assistance through Construct, and information on food stamps, fuel loans and basic education loans.

SBCA left the Y building after Y officials warned that they may move their offices from the West Park Street structure. The Y officials suggested that SBCA find new quarters by Nov. 1 to protect itself. Y officials have not yet formally decided whether to to leave West Park Street.

SBCA had originally wanted the present Council on Aging office on the second floor, but that space will go to the Berkshire Training and Employment Program for individual counseling.

Mark Mitchell

Fancy prancers

Pulled by prancing ponies, a wagon carrying Great Barrington's Rogers Family Circus entertained spectators in Lee Sunday during the town's Firemen's muster and parade. Story, more pictures, page 28.

Lee to combine tax bills

9-15-76

LEE — The bills taxpayers will be receiving in the next few days will include water bills in addition to personal property, real estate and excise tax bills. The mailing will mark the first time the town has combined the billings.

Tax Collector C. Marcel Brunell said the combined billings would result in about a $250 savings. He said the practice would continue in the future.

The billings, which total $1,348,283.80, include 2,206 real estate levies, 99 personal property levies, 563 excise tax bills and 2,000 water bills.

A 10 per cent discount on the water bills, which total $67,000, is available until Oct. 15.

The real estate bills, which total $1,132,307.40, and the personal property bills, which total $111,911.10, must be paid by Nov. 1. Brunell said an 8 per cent interest charge is attached retroactively to Oct. 1, if a taxpayer does not pay by Nov. 1.

The excise taxes, which amount to $37,064.85, must be paid by Nov. 17. An 8 per cent interest charge will be assessed after that date.

Brunell also said that residents who have not paid back excise tax bills are risking suspension of their driver's licenses. He said a list of those who have not paid the bills must be submitted to the Registry of Motor Vehicles in the near future.

Brunell said that residents with questions about their tax bills should contact the tax collector's office at the Town Hall on Mondays through Fridays from 9 to 4.

Discount prices on Film Developing, Wheeler's Lee Pharm. — Adv.

South County parish to mark 75th year

SHEFFIELD — Bishop Joseph Maguire will be the main concelebrant at a 2 p.m. Mass Oct. 31 marking the diamond jubilee of Our Lady of the Valley parish.

The Mass, at Our Lady of the Valley Church here, will be followed by a reception at the parish hall.

As part of the celebration, a Mass will be said daily at 5:30, beginning this Friday and ending Oct. 31. A performance of "The Devil and Daniel Webster" will be presented this Sunday at 8 p.m. in the parish hall.

Our Lady of the Valley parish was formed in 1901 and includes the towns of New Marlborough, Sheffield, Sandisfield and Monterey.

Tylenol Tablets for safe, fast pain relief, 100's 99c at McClelland Rexall Drug. — Adv.

Converse Snowmobile Boots. Reg. $19.95 Now $9.95. All sizes Jack's in Lee & Gt. Barr. — Adv.

Lock offered for R-rated films

Eagle 1-19-75

S. Berkshire cable turns on pay TV

GREAT BARRINGTON — Cable subscribers in four South Berkshire towns were provided with a preview of pay TV over the weekend as Home Box Office programming was introduced into the area.

At a kick-off reception Saturday evening at the local VFW, four South County dignitaries pulled switches at exactly 7 p.m. signifying the start of a four-day preview (aired on Channel 8) of pay TV programming.

Lisa Connors, the company's field-marketing director, described the scope and operation of the system to a group of about 25 town officials, businessmen and reporters.

Ms. Connors said that a substantial number of the movies presented would carry an R-rating and would always be screened after 9 p.m. She said that the company did not anticipate any legal repercussions from the community for showing R-rated films (some of which include profanity and/or nudity). Such showings are not subject to Federal Communications Commission regulation because the company's programming does not use public airways, but is transmitted through microwaves from New York City, Ms. Connors explained.

John Diegel, general manager of Berkshire Cable Television in Great Barrington, said that subscribers could purchase a special "parental guidance lock" (for about $13) which can be attached to the television to prevent its use, for example, by children when their parents are not home and an R-rated film is scheduled.

Ms. Connors noted that no X-rated films would be shown.

Diegel said that cable subscribers in Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge would receive mailings shortly outlining preview dates and stating the cut-off dates of the promotional period during which a special subscription rate is offered.

Programming will be presented every day for 12 hours from 1:30 p.m. until 1:30 a.m. Late-release movies will be screened several times at staggered intervals so as not to compete or conflict with commercial television, Ms. Connors said.

Ms. Connors reminded those present that programs would not be interrupted for commercials.

Home Box Office, which features late-release movies, live sports broadcasts and other special programming, is being provided to Berkshire Cable Television subscribers at a cost of $9.95 per month ($8 during the current promotional period).

Switches marked "Great Barrington," "Stockbridge," "Lee" and "Lenox" were pulled, respectively, by Dr. Raymond R. Brinker, Stockbridge Selectmen Chairman Robert G. Williams, Lee Selectmen Chairman Edward F. Murray, and Lenox Selectmen Chairman John J. Pignatelli.

Ralph E. Brown

SHADOWBROOK property, in aerial view looking east, slopes down to Stockbridge Bowl, upper right. Berkshire Country Day School is at extreme right and land owned by the Boston Symphony Orchestra is at upper left. Shadowbrook building is proposed site for new state prison (Story on Page 1, Sect. 2).

Gordon takes over Lee mills

10/21/76

LEE — Milton J. Gordon of Lee today was named the senior mill manager of the Schweitzer Division of the Kimberly-Clark Corp.'s four mills here. Gordon will assume that responsibility in addition to his current duties as the manager of mill operations at all Schweitzer Division plants.

In his appointment to the Lee job, Gordon replaces Frederick C. Hartwell. Hartwell has been assigned to Gordon's staff as a manufacturing specialist.

Lee officials frustrate CETA search for space

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — The Berkshire Training and Employment Program (BTEP) last night made a little headway in its effort to persuade the Lee Selectmen to give the Comprehensive Employment and Training Program (CETA) additional space at the Town Hall.

Rather than the outright rejection the request for a small office has received for the last two months, a CETA administrator was told after a 45 minute meeting that his program "had a commitment, although vaguely worded" for additional space.

The Selectmen told Richard LaBarbera, the head of the local CETA office, that the main problem was a lack of space and a reluctance to let the group share offices now used by either the Selectmen, the Conservation Commission or the building inspector on a part-time basis.

Especially adamant in not having CETA use the office now used by the Selectmen or building inspector was Joseph J. Castronova, who cited the confidentiality of town records in arguing against giving CETA the space. He also objected to "giving the town away," meaning that CETA does not pay rent.

LaBarbera said his group only wanted the extra office for confidential interviews with clients. He said the space would be needed for perhaps 10 or 20 hours a week, and he promised to have CETA personnel in the office at all times it was not locked.

CETA now uses an office on the second floor of the Town Hall for paper work and the large meeting room on the second floor for intake work. LaBarbera said another room was needed for the confidential meetings and interviews.

Paul R. Collins, the probation officer of the Lee District Court, supported LaBarbera's request saying that "confidentiality was needed for some interviews" with clients. He also said CETA had been an "excellent resource" for the court.

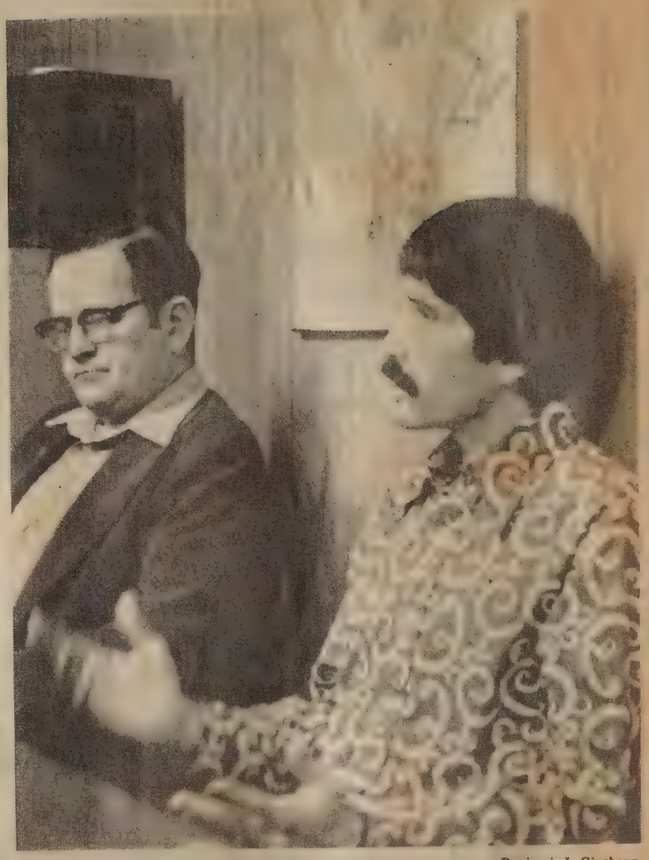
Selectmen Martin H. Deely and William Murphy tentatively supported the CETA request, especially if the program agreed to follow three guidelines set up by Edward M. Briggs, the building inspector. Briggs insisted that if CETA uses his office, that it be secured at all times, that it be kept orderly, and that CETA knew it was sharing the office and not taking it over.

LaBarbera agreed to the stipulations and offered to try using the use the office on a trial basis.

Deely said that a major roadblock to granting the CETA request is that Southern Berkshire Community Action has also asked for Town Hall space. That program currently administers the Food Stamp Program and other social service programs out of the YMCA building. But SBCA has been told it must leave the Y building on West Park Street.

The Selectmen agreed that they needed to know SBCA's needs before giving space to CETA, and suggested the two groups might have to share space.

Another factor leading to the Town Hall space crunch is that the Railroad Street office building is not yet complete. The Selectmen learned last night that they would probably receive federal money to complete the work on the office building later this year. The work would be done next year, leading to a space shortage over the next year.



Benjamin L. Ginsberg

PLEADING FOR additional space on the second floor of the Lee Town Hall is Richard LaBarbera, director of the Berkshire Employment and Training Program office in Lee. LaBarbera's request was directed towards the Lee Selectmen, including William Murphy, left. The board promised to study the situation.

Lee YMCA, in regional shift, moves staff to Stockbridge site

LEE — The Lee YMCA yesterday completed its changeover into the Southern Berkshire YMCA by announcing that its 2½-person office staff would move Nov. 1 to the House of Shops in Stockbridge from the former Hyde Mansion here that has served as headquarters since 1968.

The shift of the headquarters' staff will have absolutely no affect on programs, according to David Eliot, the executive director of the Y.

Eliot said the shift in headquarters was undertaken primarily for financial reasons. The cost of upkeep at the Hyde Mansion, located on West Park Street here, was about $3,600 a year.

But more pressing than the actual cost of upkeep was the problem of renovating the house to make it a more usable facility. After Y officials realized that it was not practical to renovate the house, they began considering other headquarter sites.

The Lee location also was not considered the best site for a Southern Berkshire facility because it is not in the center of Southern Berkshire County. The Stockbridge location is more centralized, Eliot said.

Rent for the two-room office at the House of Shops, which also is the home of an import store and a book shop, is expected to be about $1,500 less than the annual upkeep costs of the Lee Y building.

Unless the Y's board of directors vote at their November meeting to retain the title to the West Park Street mansion, the deed will revert to the Hyde family.

The Lee Y announced last April that it was changing its name to the Southern Berkshire YMCA and was considering shifting the site of its non-facility headquarters.

The branch currently has about 400 members, two full-time employes and a part-time secretary. Programs will continue to be run at several Southern Berkshire sites which have the needed facilities.

Berkshire Courier

OBER 21, 1976 20 Pages Price 20 Cents

South Berkshire YMCA Will Move Lee Office To Stockbridge Nov. 1

LEE — The Southern Berkshire YMCA—formerly the Lee YMCA—will move its offices from the former Hyde Mansion here and relocate to the House of Shops in Stockbridge November 1, according to a YMCA spokesman who asked not to be identified. The branch of the Pittsfield YMCA has been based in the three-story building on West Park Street since the founding of the branch in 1968.

Although the branch's 14-member Board of Directors did not hold their regular monthly meeting this month, due to a lack of a quorum, an "informal" vote was taken among those members who were present. The vote, according to chairman Dana Marcus of Great Barrington, indicated that "perhaps remaining in Lee was not feasible from a financial standpoint."

The unnamed spokesman emphasized that the change in location will in no way alter the branch's programs, which are currently taking place at various locations in South Berkshire.

Last spring, the branch announced it would begin a registration drive in all of South Berkshire, with the aim of serving more people outside of Lee. Also at that time, the YMCA officials indicated that there was a good possibility the branch would become a "non-facility" YMCA, in that its recreation programs would operate from several locations throughout South Berkshire, with only office space needed for the staff. The move to smaller quarters in Stockbridge would indicate that this philosophy has become reality.

The spokesman noted that no formal announcement of the move has been made because the branch has been unable to contact John Hyde, a member of the family that donated the building to the Lee YMCA in 1968 in the memory of Hyde's father, the late George Alvan Hyde. The building was built by the Rev. Alvan Hyde. When the YMCA moves, according to the spokesman, the Pittsfield parent organization may vote to retain title to the building at its November 15 meeting. Otherwise, ownership of the building would revert back to the Hyde family, as previously stipulated.

Currently, the staff office of the South Berkshire YMCA numbers two, program Director David Duquette and an assistant. The branch currently has a membership of nearly 400.

10/23/1976

RECEIVING THE certificate of his election as governor of the New England Kiwanis Clubs is George Bagnaschi of Lee, left. Also pictured from left are Bagnaschi's wife, Viola, Millie Schnieder, and her husband, Stanley, the Kiwanis International president. The presentation took place at an International Kiwanis meeting earlier this month at Oak Brook, Ill.

G. H. Bagnaschi heads district for Kiwanis

LEE — George H. Bagnaschi of Fairview Street received the official certificate of his election as the new governor of the New England District of the Kiwanis Clubs at the annual Kiwanis International Council meeting Oct. 3-5 at Oak Brook, Ill.

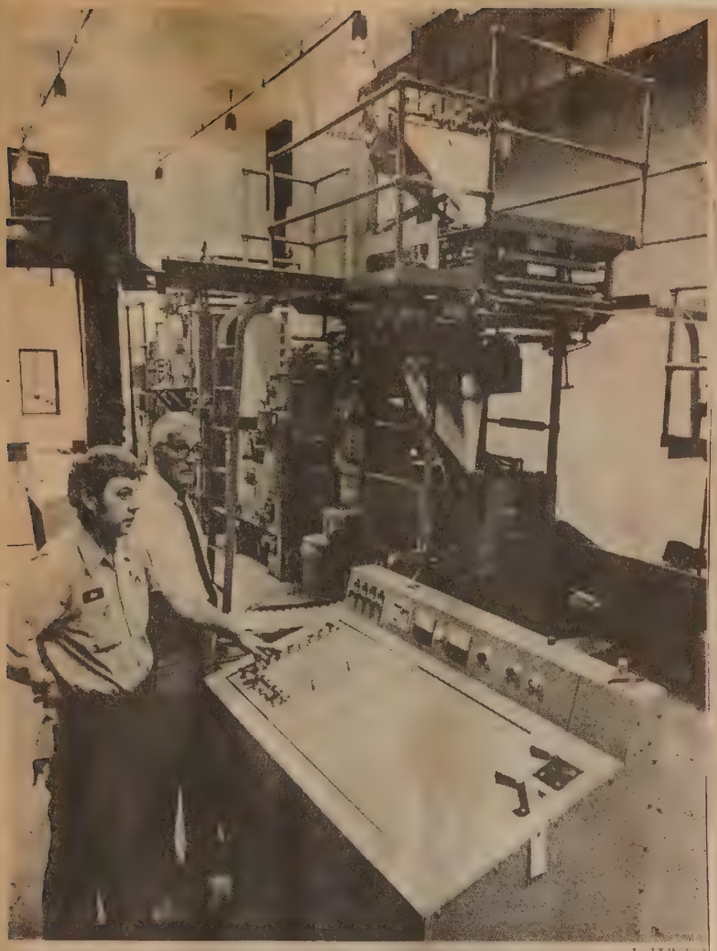
Bagnaschi and his wife, Viola, also attended the three-day training conference for newly elected district governors.

The council meeting was attended by 200 top Kiwanis members, including the 20-man Kiwanis International Board of Trustees, past Kiwanis International presidents and other leaders.

Winter parking ban established in Lee

LEE — Parking on the town's main streets for more than one hour between midnight and 7 a.m. will be forbidden after Nov. 15, according to Police Chief John J. Boyne.

Boyne said that cars violating the town ordinance, effective each winter, will receive parking tickets. Cars will also be towed at the owner's expense if they interfere with snow removal, he said.



Joel Librizzi

TRIAL RUN of The Eagle's new press is witnessed by Lawrence K. Miller, right, the newspaper's editor and publisher. Operating the console is Kenneth F. Keehnle, pressroom foreman.

Eagle's offset press goes into operation

By Mark C. Miller

If today's Eagle looks a little sharper than usual, it's not your imagination.

The new look is the product of a new lithographic offset press located in a new addition on the east side of The Eagle's "flatiron" building. Lawrence K. Miller, editor and publisher of The Eagle, said the combined $2 million cost of the project is the largest investment in The Eagle Publishing Company's history.

The spindly, light-blue Goss Urbanite press looks like a toy compared to the 54-year-old, 333-ton, charcoal gray Hoe rotary letter press The Eagle acquired thirdhand from the Atlanta (Ga.) Journal in 1949. (The Journal had bought it from the now-defunct Philadelphia Public Ledger.)

But what the new press lacks in weight and age and imposing appearance it makes up for in newpaper printing technology. The offset process prints more solid blacks and cleaner whites than the often grainy and broken printing of the letterpress. "Show-through" from the other side of the page will be eliminated.

With offset, illustrations have a generally finer, sharper appearance, aided by a wider range of tones. Perhaps happiest with the new process will be photographers who have seen their best efforts ruined by the less exact reproduction of letterpress.

The Eagle Publishing Co. pioneered the use of offset printing in daily journalism in New England in 1961, when The Eagle's sister paper, the Bennington (Vt.) Banner, was first printed on a Goss Suburban press. Since then, the Brattleboro (Vt.) Reformer and the Torrington (Conn.) Register, two other newspapers in the Miller Group, have both "gone offset."

The word offset comes from the process of offsetting the image, pictures and words, from a plate to a rubber blanket before contacting the paper. The simplest explanation of how the offset process works is that oil and water don't mix.

The process starts with a large camera capable of photographing a whole newspaper page. Anything that can be photographed by this camera — pictures, typewriting or type images — can be printed by the process. The camera makes a photographic negative, which is then used to expose a printing plate made of thin aluminum coated with a light-sensitive material. After being exposed to the negative and developed, the plate contains an image of the material photographed in the camera. When the surface of the plate is wet, its blank

Eagle's offset press
Continued on Page 11

Eagle's offset press begins operation

Continued from Page 1

areas cannot be inked, but the image portions will accept and hold printing ink.

Top speed of the new press is 24,000 to 25,000 papers an hour, slightly slower than the 28,000-paper-per-hour speed of the Hoe press, according to Kenneth Keehnle, The Eagle's press room foreman. Its speed would be slower still were it not for "flying pasters," which can put a new roll of paper on the press while it is running at full speed. The Hoe press had to be brought to a complete standstill while the paper was changed.

The new press will be able to print a 48-page broadsheet newspaper with four-color processed color illustrations and a combination of eight to 14 spot color positions on any page, Keehnle said. For commercial work, the press will be capable of running a 16-page tabloid with four-color processed color on every page at 50,000 copies per hour. It will be able to run a 96-page tabloid with processed color—though not on every page—at 25,000 per hour.

The press arrived in April and was installed in a little more than a week. There followed a critical two-month period of leveling, aligning and wiring (with about six miles of wire) and piping and testing.

The new three-story, 100 by 100-foot building, for which David J. Tierney Jr., Inc., was general contractor, will allow The Eagle approximately twice its former storage area for newsprint, which will continue to be delivered by rail.

The boxlike building, best described as modern functional, was designed by the firm of Russell Gibson & von Dohlen Inc. to provide for future expansion. Architect Terry F. Hallock said the design and size of the building evolved from detailed descriptions he was given concerning the operations to be performed inside.

The papers are transferred from the press by a conveyer system to the "mailing room," where they are counted, bundled and put into trucks at the loading dock. Once again, all loading of the trucks will be off-street; since June 1975, when demolition of the Pritchard Building (1912) began to make way for the new building, the papers have been loaded on Eagle Street.

Power for the new press will come from the same sources, two 100-horsepower motors. The electric system includes a 300-kilovolt-ampere General Electric transformer built in Pittsfield.

120,000
Six days a week, The Eagle goes into more than 30,000 homes to inform a readership estimated at 120,000.

The Berks

Second Section

Pittsfield, Massachusetts,

Mark Mitchell

HISTORIAN Edward R. Knurow pores over maps and records in the study of his Lanesboro home.

Hooked on

By Judy Katz

Edward R. Knurow is a man who is hooked on history. One room of his Chicopee Street, Lanesboro, home is stacked with thick binders, map cases and boxes, three deep on the floor, crammed with data from 30 years of tracking down and plotting the locations of ancient roads, cemeteries, forts, taverns and Tory landholdings.

Knurow knew every winding of the Knox Trail 10 years before the bicentennial made people care about its location. He can tell you who was the first man to be convicted of the illegal sale of whiskey in Berkshire County, and exactly where the taverns were which were operated by participants in Shays' Rebellion.

No reasons

What he can't tell is how he got started or why the more information he has, the more he wants. When pressed for the source of his craving for historical research, the strongly built retired Department of Natural Resources officer (he calls himself a game warden) finally said, "I probably got the interest from my father. He was Polish, and was pretty much imbued with the history of Poland."

Knurow seems to have slipped gradually into his 30-year study project as he walked his Berkshire Conservation District carrying a map. "Everything I came across, I marked down on the map. To do this, you have to know the locality. The conservation officers today spend most of their time in cars and don't have time to really get to know their district by walking it. By now, if I know where a road starts, I can say where it's likely to go."

He's always been ready to pour out information for people compiling town histories, and said he used to send in map corrections to the County Commissioners. "They have some roads on their map entirely wrong," he said. "And I have some roads they don't. I have all the old turnpikes."

Bitterness

But he feels a certain bitterness because people who have used his research seldom gave him public credit for his assistance. That probably explains why the first thing he hands a visitor is a long sheet of paper covered with very small handwriting. It is headed, "acknowl-

Carol Cloe

They're just making believe

Richard Moffat and his daughter Melissa of West Stockbridge make believe they are pushing his green and black 1922 Franklin demi-sedan, which will be on exhibit at the Sheffield antique show scheduled Aug. 13, 14 and 15. The show will be sponsored by local historical society. The vintage auto can reach speeds of up to 45 miles per hour and gets about 16 miles to every gallon in its 16-gallon tank.

8/31/76

63

July 31 1976

New owners regilding the Curtis Hotel

By Susan M. Besaw

LENOX — The Curtis Hotel, one of Lenox's last vestiges of the "Gilded Age," is getting a much-needed face-lifting under the management of its new owners, the Curtel Corp., headed by Ben Benjamin and Wynn Wosk.

The historic hotel has not operated on a year-round basis for several years, a situation which has led to numerous disputes between the parade of recent owners and the Selectmen over the annual liquor license.

Residents and tourists alike have bemoaned a situation which leaves one of the town's most prominent and historical buildings only an empty, dark hole in the central downtown area during the off-season months.

Tavern opened first

A tavern has occupied the site since 1773. The first brick structure, part of which comprises the front portion of the hotel today, was built in 1829. Six years later, it was taken over by the Curtis family who made it famous. President Chester A. Arthur used it as his summer White House.

Benjamin and Wosk say they intend to keep the hotel doors open to the public year-round, at least for bar and restaurant traffic, and an extensive remodeling of the 92 hotel rooms will be undertaken after the summer season.

But the new owners are already making a herculean effort to change the somewhat tarnished image of the Curtis by renovating the downstairs area and adding many new features. The kitchen is being completely remodeled.

Although it will always be known by residents simply as the Curtis Hotel, a name it has held for well over 100 years, the brochures call it the Grand Hotel Curtis on the Village Green. Benjamin said that "grand" appears before the names of the best European hotels, and, in this case, the name change is to indicate a total change in policy, standards and ownership.

Federal period

Benjamin wants to restore the 147-year-old hotel to the grandeur of the Empire or Federal period of the 19th century, when America transported the elegance of the European courts. Many pieces of valuable furniture owned by Benjamin, including Venetian and French couches and Duncan Phyfe tables, have been placed in the lobby, which is also graced by new chandeliers. The walls have been painted and the floor is covered by a new plush red carpet.

Susan M. Besaw

RESTORATION of the Curtis Hotel in Lenox to 19th century European elegance is best depicted in the lobby, which boasts a new carpet and furnishings. The 147-year-old hotel has been purchased by Ben Benjamin and Wynn Wosk, former operators of an inn in Spring Lake, N.J.

"I envision the Curtis will regain its status as the La Grande Dame of the Berkshires," Benjamin said, surveying the room. "This is only the beginning."

A new feature this year is charcoal-grilled food to be served in Peacock Alley, a terrace area near the pool. Gourmet cooking and more standard fare will be offered both here and in the 450-seat dining room.

Robert Fox is chef, and the maitre d'hotel is known simply as Mr. Rix. Fox formerly worked at Gurney's Inn on Long Island, the Desert Inn in Las Vegas, and at restaurants on Palm Beach and the Caribbean. Mr. Rix was formerly at the Interlaken Inn in Lakeville, Conn.

Two art galleries and at least two stores will be housed at the hotel. The Tempo Gallery again has a room downstairs, and the Asian Gallery from New York will be added. Women's clothing is offered in Panorama Fashions, and gifts and other items will be on sale at a shop called Green Street.

Musical entertainment will be featured nightly in the restaurant and lounge, and a theatrical troupe called the New Phoenix Players will offer plays throughout the summer.

Susan M. Besaw

DINING ROOM of Lenox's historic Curtis Hotel seats 450. Charcoal-broiled dishes are offered outside on the terrace, to the rear of the dining room.

Benjamin and Wosk are not strangers to the hotel business. They operated a 25-room inn called the Billows in Spring Lake, N.J., for six years. Benjamin was born into the business. His father operated a 375-room hotel in Ulster County, N.Y.

Real estate sales

Robert T. and Thelma I. Parker to Sinopoli Construction

Photos by Benjamin L. Ginsberg

HEARING COMPLAINTS about late-night noise at the parking lot of the Laurel Lounge on Route 102 in Lee are from left, Police Chief John J. Boyne, and the lounge's operators, Ed Zanetti and Charles Vaninetti.

MAKING COMPLAINTS about the noise is lounge abutter Russell King, seated on left. King and Richard Hommes, seated at right, brought the situation to the Selectmen in an effort to solve the problem that has plagued them for the last six weeks.

Lee to crack down on late-night noise at lounge

LEE—Town officials said last night they will start prosecuting persons who gather and make noise in the Laurel Lounge parking lot on Route 102 in the early morning hours.

The officials took the action after hearing complaints from two neighbors of the Laurel Lounge, which is housed in the same building as the Lee Bowling Lanes.

The abutters, Richard Hommes of the Morpheus Arms Motel, and Russell A. King of Route 102, said that they have been frequently awakened over the past six weeks by loud noise made by people honking horns and banging car hoods in the parking lot. The two also complained of shouting and profanity.

In addition, the proprietors of the lounge — Edward Zanetti and Charles Vaninetti — said they could not control what goes on in the parking lot after they leave the establishment, usually about 2:30 a.m.

Zanetti, Vaninetti, Hommes, King, the Selectmen and Police Chief John J. Boyne agreed on three steps to control the situation: prosecuting for trespassing the owners of cars that are left in the parking lot after the bar is closed; having the lounge hire an off-duty police officer to patrol the lot from midnight to 3 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights, and placing chains across the two entrances to the lot.

The Selectmen said chaining the lot would have to be approved by Fire Chief Ottavio B. Giarolo to insure that no fire safety laws are broken.

At last night's hearing, which became heated at times, Hommes complained that guests were checking out of his motel in anger at the loud noise. Zanetti and Vaninetti sympathized with his plight, but insisted they were helpless to control the situation.

"I've had guests sign in for four days and check out after one night after they hear the noise. They say it's impossible [illegible] I'm losing business," Hommes said.

Responded Vaninetti, who works part-time as a bartender at the lounge: "I've patrolled the lot for two weeks. But after I close at 2, what can I do? I go out and tell them to leave. But they're all liquored up, and I can't get them out of the lot. And I can't stand out in the lot all night."

King, who lives about 250 yards east of the lot, said: "My point is that the parking lot is the responsibility of the lounge's owners 24 hours a day. They have to accept responsibility for the people making the noise."

Kevin Blache, who came to the hearing to support the lounge owners and said he used to work there as a bartender, explained that the problem involved drunk people congregating in one place.

After admitting that as a bartender he had served people who were already "kinda liquored up" who then went to the parking lot and made noise, Blache said:

"What do you expect Charlie and Eddie to do. Stay there 24 hours a day? There's nothing they can do. A bunch of people decide they still want to drink after 2 when we close. So they all bunch into one car and go over to the State Line (a bar in New York State which stays open until 4 a.m.). Then they all come back here at 3 or 4 and make a lot of noise. What can Charlie and Eddie do?"

The Selectmen, Boyne, the abutters and the lounge owners then agreed that the lounge's employes would write down the license plate numbers of cars left in the lot. The owners will then be prosecuted for trespassing, Boyne said.

The owners said they would also hire the police officer and put chains across the entrances to the parking lot after the bar is closed. The owners also said they would announce the new rules over the bar's public address system and would place signs in the parking lot.

Man who aided with specs is low bidder for contract

LEE — The low bid for a new copying machine for the town office was submitted last night by the man who drew up the specifications for the town — Robert J. MacFarlene of MacFarlene Office Products in Pittsfield.

MacFarlene helped draw up the specifications at the behest of his Pease Terrace neighbor — Selectman Chairman Martin H. Deely.

Only two bids were submitted last night. MacFarlene bid $3,645 to supply a new Royal copying machine with trade-in of the town's old machine. He set a rental rate of $125-a-month, including 2,000 copies.

The other bid was $9,500 for a new Zerox machine. The rental fee would be $161.80-a-month for a Zerox machine.

Deely said this morning that he had asked MacFarlene to help him draw up the specifications because "he has an expertise on these machines that is not shared by the Selectmen."

Deely said he did not think there was any impropriety involved because "the specifications were not written around a specific machine. And everyone in the county who might want to bid on the contract was sent a copy of the specifications."

Deely said that he had written the section of the specifications relating to the rental contracts.

Deely also said that MacFarlene had drawn up the specifications when the town bought a machine three years ago. "He did just what he did this time. And three years ago he submitted the fourth highest bid and did not get the contract."

Selectmen William Murphy and Deely last night voted to postpone awarding the contract so that the personnel in the Town Clerk's office could examine the bids. That office will be the primary users of the machines.

The Selectmen indicated they would award the contract for the machine at their meeting next Monday.

Selectman Joseph J. Castronova was absent from last night's meeting.

Car hits house in East Lee

LEE — A 19-year-old Lee man will appear in District Court this morning to answer charges of driving to endanger and driving under the influence of alcohol after the car he was driving earlier this morning swerved off Route 20 and rammed a house belonging to William Winters.

Neither the driver of the car, Michael A. Forbes of 273 East Center St., nor any of the six people asleep at Winters's home at the time of the accident were injured.

Winters has not yet obtained an official damage estimate for his home, but he said this morning that the impact of Forbes 1969 Chevrolet cracked the concrete foundation of the home and knocked loose paneling along a 12-foot front wall.

Lee Police said Forbes was driving west on Route 20 about 1:45 a.m. when his car went off the north side of the road and struck the house. Winters, his wife, and four children ranging in age from 11 to 17 were asleep at the time in the two-story house.

Fire alarm sounded

The alarm was sounded for the Lee Fire Department, which went to the scene and washed down the gasoline that spilled onto the road.

Forbes's car had to be towed from the scene.

Eagle 8/14/76

Lee coffee, bakery shop taken over by Zanconatos

Ben Ginsberg

UNUSUAL SWITCH from insurance to baking has put Thomas and Cindy Zanconato into business in Lee where they have opened the dandi donut shop in the Park Plaza shopping center. Zanconato had been associated with the Hartford Insurance Co., before he decided to be his own boss.

By Benjamin Ginsberg

LEE — Thomas and Cindy Liss Zanconato have taken over the Park Plaza restaurant / bakery that used to house Julie's Coffee Shop from Julie Drummond.

And with the new owners have come a new name (dandi donuts), new hours (5:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m.) and a desire to continue serving what they consider superior donuts and sandwiches.

The shop is the first enterprise for the Zanconatos, who were married 14 months ago and now live on Main Street.

He traded in his job with The Hartford Insurance Co. for the chance to be a baker and his own boss.

"I wanted to see what it's like to be in business for myself," says the Pittsfield native who learned the art of making donuts from Elvin Drummond, who performed the art when the store was owned by Mrs. Drummond.

Mrs. Zanconato, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Liss who own the Towne Shoppe on Main Street, will continue her job as a special needs teacher at Monument Mountain Regional High School. She will also offer some of her culinary specialities at the store.

In addition to 15 varieties of fresh-baked donuts, dandi donuts offers grinders, coffee and soda.

To better serve their customers, the Zanconatos have nearly doubled the restaurant's seating capacity to 19 places.

Tough-talking confessor

LEE

Tough-talking Tommy Vecchia, an assistant supermarket manager in Great Barrington before a rapid rise to the presidency of the 480-member union for the four Schweitzer Division mills, believes that a union can get more from management with honey than with vinegar.

Vecchia heads the International Union of Papermakers Local 78, a position he was elected to after only three years with the company. On June 23 the union ratified a new two-year contract that will provide a 23 per cent increase in salary and fringe benefits. That accomplishment lets Michael Thomas Vecchia speak with some authority on the subject of contract negotiations.

And if his tactics bear only a faint resemblance to the militant and adversary style adopted by the nation's first union leaders, the 46-year-old Vecchia feels the results support his theory of pragmatism.

"You can go into contract negotiations hard-assed," he says. "And sometimes you have to be a hard-ass. But after awhile, both we in the union and management found that that was a lousy route to have to take.

"Negotiations are like a cat-and-mouse game," he explains. "Before you begin, you have to know what you want. But you really do want the company to be able to stay in the ballgame, you want the company to make its bucks.

"If the company makes its bucks, then we're going to make ours. That's what it's all about. All we want to do is make sure we get our fair share," he says.

Vecchia, a Lee native, has been head of the union at the town's largest employer for the past six years. He says quickly that he has no intention of relinquishing his position.

"They voted me in and they'll have to vote me out. I have no intention of leaving soon," he says.

Actually Vecchia's path to his current position began because of problems he encountered in 1966 when the workers unionized at the Great Barrington A & P, where he was assistant manager.

"A union got voted in, and we lost a lot of help. I found myself having to do a lot of dirty work and jobs I did 20 years ago when I was first starting out," he recalls. "I told myself it was no way to live. And I realized that I really didn't have much security in that job."

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

Vecchia: honey, not vinegar

He quit the supermarket business — which he had been in since his high school days — and went to work in the metalized slitting department of the mills.

He became active in the union at the start of his second year when he was named a shop steward. He was named the vice president the following year and president the next.

Vecchia's only other job came when he was 19 (he graduated from Lee High School in 1948). He was employed briefly at the General Electric Co. in Pittsfield.

"It didn't work out," he remembers. "I was wild. I wasn't really ready to work a night shift. I was just married, and I'd go to work two hours late, say I was sick after an hour and leave."

While the memories are not pleasant, Vecchia says his experience helps now with younger union members. "I know how they feel, but they have to learn that they're only hurting themselves by getting fired," he says.

Vecchia says that the greatest problems he faces as union president involve personnel matters, such as union members being consistantly late or absent, and getting into disputes with supervisors.

"You really almost have to be a confessor in this job," he says. "You listen to a lot of people and make a lot of friends, but probably you make more enemies. But what the hell, all in all the response from the membership, especially over this last contract, has been great. It's made easy by the fact I have a great committee. Jesus, they gave us a standing ovation after we explained the contract. I was amazed, they usually don't do things like that."

Vecchia says that one of the keys to his tenure has been "going out and getting around the plant as much as possible. It's one of the most important things I can do. To recognize all the guys. Hell, everyone wants some recognition, and if you go out then you can find the problems and deal with them before they fester."

His main goal as union president, Vecchia says, is to raise salaries to the point where "a guy can make a decent living with a 40-hour week. That way the overtime is just gravy. We found out this year that without the overtime money it's hard for us to make it. That shouldn't be."

One of the principal accomplishments of his tenure, Vecchia feels, is making sure that all members of the union committee attend seminars to learn the latest in bargaining techniques and contract negotiations.

His biggest non-working pleasure is his family, Vecchia says. He and his wife, Rose, have four children. "I've given up golf because it takes me away from my family. I've given up bowling because it takes me away from my family. I'm just as happy as can be with them."

The lone thing he won't give up, he says, is that position as union head.

Two retire at Byron Weston

DALTON

Lee carnival raises $45 for charity

LEE — Children in the Greylock Street area raised $45.80 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association Saturday at a neighborhood carnival in the backyard at the Donald Abbott home.

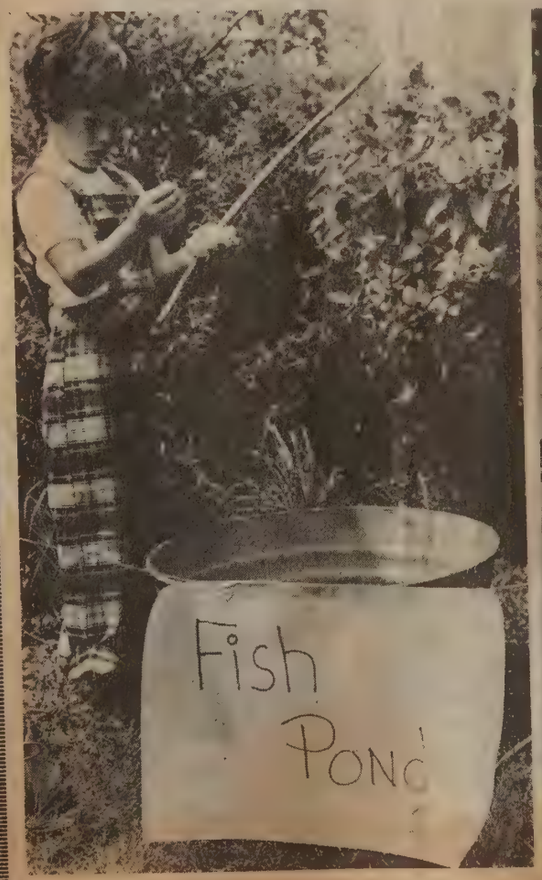
Mary Ellen Abbott was general chairman.

Neighborhood children spent about a month preparing for the carnival including the making and distribution of posters, according to Mrs. Donald Abbott, who served as a fortune teller at the carnival.

Besides Mary Ellen Abbott, other chairmen were Carrie Clark, Lorri Hart, Amy Boyne, Shaun Boyne and Peter Sorrentino.

Photos by Frank V. McCarthy

Peter Sorrentino copes with the obstacle course.



Suzanne Boyne shows how the fish pond works.

Rebecca Abbot is proprietor of the marble drop.

Carol Cioe

DANCING WITH GLEE, these children were among those attracted to the fields behind Lee High School yesterday by the coming and going of helicopters. This one and 12 others, all filled with National Guardsmen returning from Camp Drum, N.Y., were bound for Otis Air Force Base on Cape Cod, when the ceiling dropped below the hilltops surrounding Lee, forcing the pilots to land here and at another site about two miles to the west. Parents protested when children got too close.

13 helicopters forced down in Lee

By Carol Cioe

LEE — In what seemed like a small invasion, at least 13 green insect - like U.S. Army helicopters, forced down by thick fog, landed here yesterday afternoon, bound for Otis Air Force Base in Falmouth from Camp Drum, N.Y.

Seven helicopters landed in the Lee High School field at about 4 p.m., astonishing neighbors and exciting the scores of children who watched the spectacle.

Meanwhile, another six choppers landed about two miles to the west in a field in back of the Howard Johnson's Restaurant off the south side of the Massachusetts Turnpike in western Lee. According to local police, one helicopter was forced to land because of engine trouble.

But, according to Arthur Bushey, a restaurant employe, "the other five looked like they just came to eat."

Details of the incident are sketchy, but an official at Ft. Drum said last night that the helicopters, filled with National Guardsmen on their way home after a two-week maneuver, left the base between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. yesterday.

Specialist Peter Malarkey at Ft. Drum air base said that there was no report on how many helicopters left the camp.

No one at Otis Air Force Base was available for comment last night.

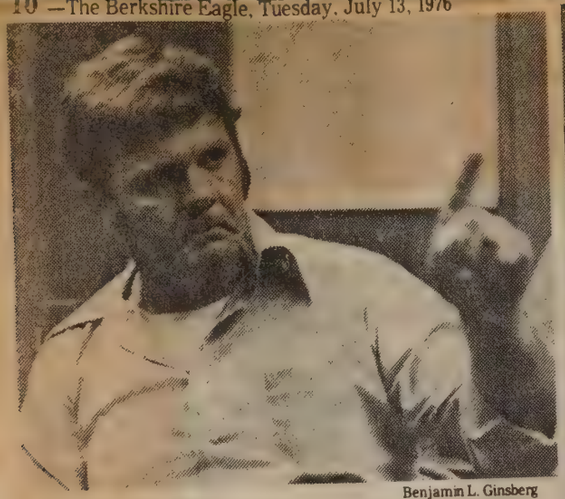
Lee State Police said there was a "small mishap" at the Howard Johnson's but they had no details of the incident. The helicopter pilots were forced to land because the cloud level had dropped below the hilltops surrounding this town, according to Malarkey. Helicopter pilots rely on eyesight, rather than instruments, to maneuver their craft. Yesterday's fog level had lifted slightly at 8:45 p.m., when the last helicopter left the Lee High School field.

Adults oohed and aahed and children jumped and flapped their arms, but no one was more astounded by the incident than John Lee of Leonard Street, whose home was used as a temporary headquarters for the National Guardsmen while they awaited telephoned weather reports.

Lee said the guardsmen used his home "probably because our house happened to be here and was painted bright red. It must have been a sign of disaster."

The helicopter landings were followed by an army of buses and about a dozen National Guard jeeps, signalling the return of the 100 Berkshire County guardsmen who were also on the two-week maneuver at Ft. Drum.

Capt. Paul F. Negrini, commander of the Berkshire County battalion, said the local guardsmen in Pittsfield arrived between 3 and 5 p.m. yesterday.



Benjamin L. Ginsberg

ANGRY HOMEOWNER Alfred Bernardo explains his problems with a house built by Booke to the Lee Selectmen last night. Booke and Bernardo worked out their differences and Selectmen granted permits for 20 more Booke homes. Booke also worked out agreements for fixing two other homes he built last year.

14 more homes planned

LEE — On the same night he received building permits for 20 houses on East Street, developer John S. Booke also announced plans to build 14 houses on Tamarack Avenue.

Booke said development of the 100- by 200-feet lots will not begin until sometime next year.

The Conservation Commission told Booke last night that all the lots are on wetlands. That means the commission will have to determine if the land can be built on and is authorized to issue a series of restrictions.

Under the state's Wetlands Protection Act, Booke will have to give the commission an official "notice of intent" that he will attempt to develop the land. The commission must then inspect the land and issue a "determination of applicability."

Booke said he plans to build three- and four-bedroom homes costing between $30,000 and $35,000.

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

DISCUSSING PLANS for the bond covering roads in new Lee development last night are developer John S. Booke, center, his attorney Philip F. Heller, left, and Lee Town Counsel James P. Dohoney. Bond was approved by the Planning Board and work at the East Street development will begin today. Booke will build 20 houses.

OK given for 20 new homes in Lee

LEE — John Booke last night won approval from the Selectmen and Planning Board to build his 20 homes at Hartwood Farms off East Street, but only after he publicly pacified three owners of homes he built last year on Martin Avenue.

Trailing Booke as he made the rounds between the Planning Board (which accepted a $15,000 savings account to serve as a bond that releases Booke from building restrictions) and the Selectmen (who signed the building permits allowing the Westfield developer to begin construction today) were three homeowners led by [illegible] Bernardo.

The $15,000 was supplied by J.H. Maxymillian, Inc., of Lanesboro, builder for the project.

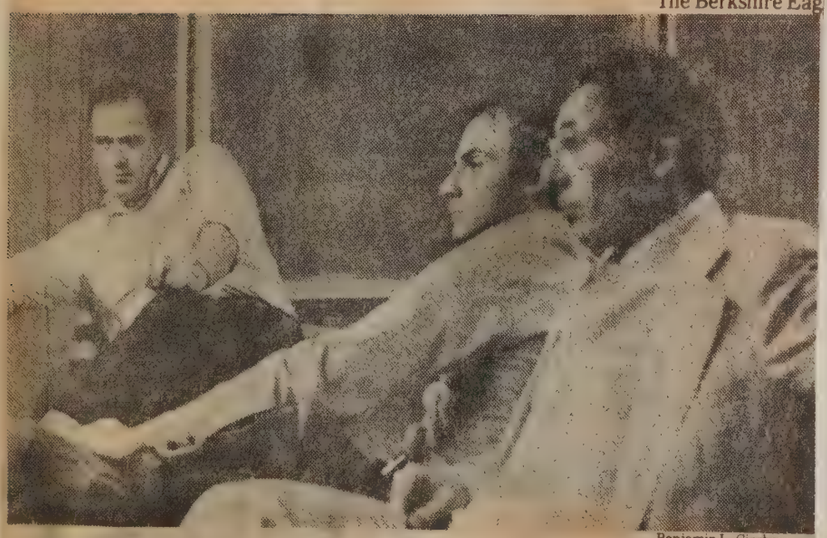
According to the agreement reached last night by Booke's attorney, Philip F. Heller of Pittsfield, and Town Counsel James P. Dohoney, the $15,000 will be returned to the builder after a final surface is put on the road, a curb and sidewalks are built, trees along the road are planted and the shoulders of the road are loamed and seeded.

The interest from the savings account, which is in Town Clerk John J. Nagle's name, will accrue to Maxymillian.

Booke said the road, once completed, would extend from East Street to the Tamarack Avenue playground. He also said that the road, if accepted by a town meeting, would be the town's sole direct access road to the field.

Booke pointed out that the road now used to gain entrance to the area is on private land that could be developed in the future. The only other access road is from the high school and is an unimproved road over rough terrain.

The Berkshire Eag



Benjamin L. Ginsberg

DEVELOPER John S. Booke, center, and his attorney, Philip Heller, right, listen at a Lee Planning Board hearing last night on Booke's 20-home East Street development. Construction on the homes will begin Wednesday. Listening at far left is Selectman Martin H. Deely. Project is to be completed by October.

oke said last night he would begin construction on the 20 homes in his East Street development next Wednesday. Booke made the statement after the Planning Board voted to release Booke from his covenant concerning roads as soon as he posted a $15,000 bond.

The covenant said that Booke had to complete a road built to town specifications through the development before he could begin construction of the houses. Booke last night asked, and the Planning Board approved, a request that the final layer of asphalt, 4,500 feet of curbing, 1,200 feet of sidewalk and several trees not be put in until the houses are built.

The $15,000 bond will insure that the road will be completed even if the houses are not. The amount was recommended by Department of Public Works Supt. J. Peter Scolforo.

The Planning Board members said they would give final approval to the bond after it was reviewed by Town Counsel James P. Dohoney and after Booke submitted a list of specifications concerning the road.

Booke said last night he would submit the bond to Dohoney this week and asked that the Planning Board give final approval at its meeting next Tuesday.

The Westfield developer also indicated he would seek building permits next Tuesday evening from the Selectmen, so the work could begin on Wednesday.

[illegible] start of construction means that Booke is only a week behind his original timetable for work on the 16-acre property that used to be the Carrington estate. Booke said last March he hoped to begin construction of the 20 homes on July 1.

He said at the time that 10 families could move into homes in the middle of September and that all 20 homes could be filled by the middle of October.

The three- and four-bedroom homes will be on 20,000-square-foot lots and cost between $29,000 and $33,000.

Lee builder to start on twenty new homes

LEE — Developer John S[illegible]

Cont Pg. 62

Bernardo. Robert Breen. and David Morris used Booke's appearance before the public boards as leverage to get promises of work they said still had to be done on their homes. Bernardo complained of a leaky basement and a washed-out yard. Breen complained of cracked front steps and a malfunctioning doorbell. and Morris complained of a cracked kitchen sink and broken garbage disposal.

The homeowners' complaints before the town boards extracted an admission from Booke that he had delayed too long in making the repairs and a promise that the problems would be attended to.

Booke has built a total of 14 homes in the Lee area. He said that his men had inspected the houses before. but had not been able to totally correct the problems.

Booke's overall work was defended before both town boards last night by Edward M. Briggs. town building inspector. "Booke does a good job on his houses." Briggs said. "They are structurally sound."

The $15.000 savings account at the First Agricultural Bank will serve in lieu of a bond covering construction of a road through the development. Booke had to put up the money before either town board would approve the start of construction. Booke said

Kiwanis team

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

New manufacturing plant coming

Ceremonial groundbreaking for the new plant of Static, Inc., on Route 102 in Lee is performed by the firm's president, Anthony Q. Testone, with shovel. Watching Testone dig are, from left, Harris Aaronson, the company's attorney; Stanley T. Ryba of the First Agricultural Bank; William E. Harris, vice president for sales; Charles R. Jones, vice president for engineering; John C. Johnson, technical director; Donald I. Filio, plant manager, and Edward Richards, who is operating the machine for the Betnr Corp. of Dalton, builder. The 60-foot by 120-foot plant will cost an estimated $175,000. The company hopes to move in by Nov. 1. The firm now operates in Lenox Dale.

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE DISTRICT Court Judge John J. Dwyer is flanked by Clerk Franklyn Sturgis, right, and Probation Officer Paul R. Collins following the first afternoon session at the court.

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

UNION LEADERS of United Paperworkers International Local 78 at the Schweitzer mills in Lee prepare for last night's vote on a new two-year contract. Pictured from left are Alex Williamson. Michael Latura. President Michael Thomas Vecchia. international union representative Andrew Chesnes. Anthony DiSimoni and Michael Scolforo. The union represetns 480 hourly employes. Meeting was at Lee's Central School.

Lee papermakers vote on contract

LEE — Members of United Paperworkers International Local 78 at four mills here owned by the Schweitzer Division of the Kimberly-Clark Corp. last night were expected to ratified a two-year contract that will bring them salary and fringe benefit increases of 11.4 per cent in the first year and 11.2 per cent in the second year.

The agreement was explained to the union members last night by President Michael Thomas Vecchia and international union representative Andrew Chesnes, who served as spokesman during the negotiations. Voting took place at two separate meetings last night at the Central School gymnasium on High Street.

A total of 480 hourly employes will be covered under the contract. The old pact will expire on July 31.

Under the new pact, wages will increase 10 per cent in each year of the contract. In the first year, base pay will range from $4.53-an-hour to $5.93-an-hour. In the second year, base pay will range from $4.98-an-hour to $6.52-an-hour.

Workers on the 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. shift will be paid an additional 23 cents an hour in the first year and 24 cents in the second. Workers on the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift will receive 46 cents an hour above base pay in the first year and 48 cents in the second.

Among fringe benefits that include improved pensions and more vacation time for workers with 12 years experience, are increased insurance coverage.

Sickness and accident insurance will be increased to $100 per week for up to 26 weeks in the first year of the contract and $110 per week for up to 26 weeks in the second year. Life insurance will be increased to $6.000 with up to $12.000 maximum coverage for accidental death or dismemberment in the first year and increased to $7.000 with up to $14.000 maximum coverage for accidental death or dismemberment in the second year of the contract.

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

DEDICATION OF new Lee Chamber of Commerce information booth is marked with the traditional ribbon cutting last night by, from left, Rotary Club President Frederic A. Warden, Selectmen Chairman Martin H. Deely, Chamber of Commerce President Gerald LeProvost, Chamber of Commerce member Henry Bragdon, and Rotary Club member Peter Consolati. The Rotary Club built the booth and gave it to the C. of C. It is located at the Congregational Church park. The old booth is in the background.

Stephen Hawkins

GOING OFF ON DEEP END, Mary Pat Tierney of Taconic High School executes a graceful dive into the Boys' Club pool. She won the diving event in yesterday's Taconic-Pittsfield High swim meet against the competition of Ann Broderick of PHS, seated center. But PHS was winner of the meet. (Story, Page 22.)

7-10-74

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e/Business

New clothing store opens in Lee

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — Lisa dePasquale had been living in the Berkshires for almost four years when she decided she wasn't "really doing anything and was tired of working for other people."

The result is that Ms. dePasquale, 24, last month opened Tops & Bottoms, a men's and women's clothing store at Park Plaza on Park Street.

A resident of George Street, she has aimed for a store which carries moderately priced clothes.

Her inventory includes Faded Glory jeans, jumpsuits and jackets; Rumble Seat jeans, skirts and matching cordoroy suits; India Imports dresses, maxi-skirts, blouses and men's shirts, and Destiny Designs blue jeans.

Ms. dePasquale had help from friends in renovating the interior of her store. Work and time were provided by both George D. Van Zandt Jr., and George D. Van Zandt Sr., and the family firm, George D. Van Zandt Sheetmetal Co.

Ms. dePasquale is a native of Philadelphia and her introduction to Berkshire County came as a child when she visited her aunt, Mrs. Serge Koussevitzky of Lenox. After graduating from Bala-Cynwyd Junior High School and Lower Merion High School, Chamberlayne Junior College in Boston and Montgomery, Pa. Community College, she lived in Boston while working days and taking courses at Northeastern University at night.

She tired of city life and settled in the Berkshires where she spent her childhood summers.

Tops & Bottoms is Ms. dePasquale's first experience with selling clothes, except for a summer job in a Philadelphia department store about 10 years ago.

"I've worked in businesses before and you learn more about this type of operation as you go along," she says. With her line of clothes constantly expanding, she is becoming more of an expert in the field, she said.

Tops & Bottoms is open on Mondays through Saturdays from 10 to 5, except for Fridays when the store remains open until 8:30.

TOPS & BOTTOMS owner Lisa dePasquale displays some of the merchandise in her shop at Lee's Park Plaza. The clothing store opened last month

Physician joins staff of medical center in Lee

LEE — Dr. Donald K. Lundgren, a 41-year-old internist who is also an ordained Presbyterian minister, has joined the staff of the Suburban Medical Associates on Stockbridge Road here. He replaces Dr. William J. Baker, who joined an insurance company in Springfield.

A native of Saratoga, N.Y., Dr. Lundgren attended Union College in Schenectady and received a B.S. in chemistry from Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill.

He continued his studies at Princeton Theological Seminary, receiving a master's degree in divinity in 1960. He had meanwhile assumed the pastorate of Presbyterian churches in Esperance and Carlisle, N.Y., where he continued to serve until 1965.

After receiving a sacred theology master's degree in psychology and pastoral counseling from Andover-Newton Theological Seminary, he made a 7-months tour of Christian missions in 40 countries and studied for a summer at the Institute of Linguistics near London. From 1965 through 1968 he served as teacher, organist, and minister in a private Christian school in Afghanistan.

Elizabeth R. Stevens

Dr. Donald K. Lundgren

Between 1968 and 1973, while pastor at a Presbyterian church in Mechanicville, N.Y., he participated in religious programs in Canada, Mexico, and Guatemala, and also studied at Albany Medical College, from which he received his M.D. in 1973.

Dr. Lundgren completed his residency at the Pittsfield General unit of Berkshire Medical Center this spring and is currently assistant for world missions and director of music at Grace Congregational Church in Pittsfield.

He is married to the former Melissa Dougall of Esperance. They live with their three chil-

LEE — Cub Scout Pack 54 held its raffle drawing last week. Pictured above are scouts William Kickery and Todd Heath, along with Scoutmaster, Gary Heath, Walter Nourse, president of local 57B in Lee, and William Kickery, Jr., chairman of the drive. Winners of the drawing were Bridget Salvato of Housatonic (C.B. Radio) and Carrol Stalker of Gt. Barrington (lamps).

Berk. Courier 7/29/76

MacFarlane to provide Lee Town Hall copier

Eagle 8/10/76

LEE — The Selectmen last night voted to purchase a new Royal Copying Machine from MacFarlane Office Products of Pittsfield rather than rent either a Royal or a Xerox.

The cost of the new machine is $3,645. It would cost about $1,800 a year to rent either the Royal or the Xerox machine.

The board decided to buy the new machine in hope that the town will save money in the long run. That will happen if the machine stays in good working condition for more than two years.

The Selectmen said they decided to buy the machine because of a clause put in the bid on the machine by Robert MacFarlane, the owner of the company and also a resident of Pease Terrace here. That clause says that if the machine breaks down in less than three years, the company will take back the machine and charge the town only a monthly rental fee of about $150.

MacFarlane also said the town could keep its current 3M copying machine, which is now broken.

The awarding of the contract to MacFarlane last night means that the man who drew up the specifications for the town copying machine and is a Pease Terrace neighbor of Selectmen Chairman Martin H. Deely will get the town's business.

Eagle 8/10/76

Lee rejects view of town counsel, restricts canvass

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — The Selectmen last night went against the advice of their town counsel and refused to allow Massachusetts Fair Share to solicit door-to-door here. The board instead said the public interest group could canvass the town's business district.

The solicitation request by Fair Share prompted a general discussion on solicitation here, with all three Selectmen saying they did not object to being canvassed by local residents, but did object to outsiders going door-to-door.

But the board said some residents do not want to be bothered by any solicitors. In order to combat the problem, the Selectmen said they would start a list of those residents. The list will be kept at the Town Hall office of the town clerk. A solicitor going to the home of anyone on the list would be subject to arrest for trespassing.

Door-to-door solicitation is a particularly difficult problem here, the Selectmen said, because of the town's location on the Massachusetts Turnpike.

The idea of the list was offered by William Murphy. "I'm working for the people and they tell me they don't want anyone coming to their house bothering them. I think we can have the people who don't want to be bothered come to the Town Hall and sign a list," he said.

Murphy, who based his May campaign for election on house-to-house visits, said he thought the list should probably also apply to politicians running for election.

Chairman Martin H. Deely said that although his position might be "delightfully inconsistent," he felt that the whole question is "really an issue of local versus nonlocal. My objection to the soliciting is when some stranger comes to my door. Then I feel uncomfortable and feel that my privacy is invaded."

The issue with Fair Share began when that group wrote a letter to the Selectmen three weeks ago threatening suit unless they were granted the right to solicit door-to-door. The Selectmen then directed Town Counsel James P. Dohoney to contact Fair Share.

Dohoney reported last night that the group wants to solicit for three purposes: edification of the public about the flat rate for electricity that will appear as a referendum question on the November ballot; solicitation of the public to financially support the group, and to gain more volunteers.

Dohoney said that based on his conversation with an attorney for Fair Share and research into the question of door-to-door solicitation laws, "I think they are on fairly solid footing with their request to canvass door-to-door to gain support for a referendum question."

Dohoney said the Selectmen risked being sued if they failed to let Fair Share go house-to-house.

However, the Selectmen voted 2 to 1 to deny Fair Share's request for permission to solicit door-to-door. Martin H. Deely cast the lone vote, saying:

"I think Fair Share's cause is lunacy, and I have no sympathy for an organization that doesn't respect the right of privacy and threatens to take a town to court if they don't get their way. I don't like door - to - door soliciting at all and I think the Town Hall list is a good idea. But I think they have a legal right to go door - to - door, and I also don't know what we can do when they go door - to - door without a permit."

The board did vote unanimously to send a letter to Fair Share saying: "The board requests that you refrain from house-to-house solicitation in our community. The town of Lee has been besieged with people who solicit door-to-door. We would hope you would respect the wishes of the citizens to have privacy. We would hope you would limit your campaign to the business district. We also urge that you contact the businessmen before soliciting on their property."

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Lee resident Mrs. George McIntyre (left) was presented the Ursula Laurus Citation by Sister Dorothy Ann Kelly, president of the College of New Rochelle at the College's 38th Alumnae College Weekend recently.

The citation is a special award honoring alumnae and friends of the College who have provided outstanding leadership and demonstrated a dedication to furthering the ideals of education in the tradition of the Ursuline sisters who founded the College of New Rochelle in 1904.

Mrs. McIntyre was honored by the College of New Rochelle for her continued support as a devoted alumna, particularly as an active contributor of articles to the College's "Alumnae News". Mrs. McIntyre resides on Center Street.

Restaurant added at Laurel Hill

7-17-75

Ray Desrosiers

LEE — Ray and Dolores Desrosiers have a restaurant up at the Laurel Hill Motel on Route 20 opposite the Lee State Police barracks that they think should be doing a better business.

"We've got good food, substantial portions, and we've sought to keep the prices low," says Desrosiers. "The problem is that we're new and people don't know about us."

The restaurant opened about six weeks ago. "There's never been a full-time restaurant up here at the motel," he says.

As manager of the local Friendly's for three years, Desrosiers says he learned the restaurant trade, and he thinks his place is a place a local family can come for a good, inexpensive meal. "I really want to build up the local trade," he said.

Breakfast is served at all times the restaurant is open, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The restaurant is also open until midnight after Tanglewood concerts.

The dinner menu features Dolores's homemade beef stew and lasagna, as well as fried clams and scallops.

Desrosiers said that the motel part of the operation, which he bought earlier this year from Richard DuPont, is doing well.

"We're booked solid on the weekends. It's the middle of the week that could use strengthening," he said.

The running of the restaurant and motel is a family operation for the Desrosiers, with their four children all helping out.

...the New England Synod.

LEE BICENTENNIAL commemorative medal, which will be sold next year as part of the town's celebration of its 200th birthday, will picture the Town Hall, left, and the Eagle Mill of the Peter J. Schweitzer Division of Kimberly-Clark Corp. The mold for the coin was donated by the paper corporation. A pewter copy of the medal will cost $3, and a silver copy will cost $15, according to estimates.

Lee prepares for town bicentennial

LEE — The town will play down the nation's bicentennial this year so that Lee's 200th birthday celebration next year won't be "anticlimatic," according to Frank Kelly, the chairman of the Lee History-Bicentennial Study Committee.

The town's celebration will include a week of activities beginning on Aug. 28, 1977, and climaxing the following Sunday. The committee is also planning to sell commemorative medals and publish a history of the town over the past 100 years.

Although the town's actual bicentennial birthday is in late October, the festivities will be held in late August and early September.

"We think there's a better chance of the weather being good then," Kelly explained. "They did the same thing for the town's 100th birthday."

The commemorative medal will have the town seal on one side and a replica of the original Eagle Mill, which is now owned by the Peter J. Schweitzer Division of the Kimberly-Clark Corp., will be on the other. The Schweitzer Division is donating the mold for the medal. A line along the rim of the medal beneath the mill replica will read, "Papermaking, A Lee Heritage."

The committee and the Selectmen have said they hope to hold down the cost of the medals.

The town history, which is being written by Florence Consolati of Circular Avenue, will be published in the spring of 1978. It will record the town's bicentennial events, as well as chronicle the town's history since the 1877 centennial celebration. A history of the town's first 100 years was published in 1878.

A general meeting to discuss the celebration will be held on July 12 at 8 p.m. at the Selectmen's offices at the Town Hall.

Auction of Lee site scheduled

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — The Lexia School, an institution with a troubled 14-year history, will be sold at auction on June 23 at 10 a.m. unless the current owners, Sea Ventures of New Jersey, can come up with the $55,000 in mortage payments owed to the Lee Savings Bank.

Bank officials have decided to foreclose on the mortage, apparently convinced that the nonprofit New Jersey organization will not be able to raise the necessary funds. The bank has also paid the town $11,152.50 of the $24,358.50 Sea Ventures owed in back taxes on the property.

Sea Ventures has been actively trying to sell the 35-acre tract off Summer Street since last November. The organization purchased the property in October 1974, for $81,000.

Walter J. Cairnes, head of Sea Ventures, said this morning in New Jersey that "we hope to rescue the school and we're working on it." He said the chances of paying off the mortgage were "50-50," but admitted there were "no strong potential buyers."

Based in New Jersey

Sea Ventures is headquartered in Toms River, N.J., and sponsors fresh-air activities for underprivileged children. It is affiliated with the National Park Service and receives funds from the federal government. The group had originally hoped to use the Lexia School property for its outdoor activities.

The property's troubled history goes back to 1962, when the estate, originally built for paper company magnate Willard F. Smith was purchased by Philip C. Feltman, an accountant from Clifton, N.J., for $47,500 from Mr. and Mrs. Ralph I. Crissey of Stockbridge. The couple had bought the property, long known as "Mandalay," a year earlier from Ernest J. Scarpa of Lee for $41,000. The property includes a 30-room mansion, a cottage, a dormitory and a gym.

Feltman founded the Lee Academy in 1962, as a private, preparatory school for boys who had problems learning in conventional schools. Feltman charged an annual tuition of $2,400 for boarding students and $1,500 for day students. Enrollment at the school reached a peak of 100 in 1966.

But in 1966 and 1967, two major fires, a controversy over alleged plumbing code violations and neighborhood complaints of unruly students doomed the fate of the school. Feltman said the incidents aroused "hostile feelings" in local residents toward the school.

Lee Academy closed its doors in 1968, when its enrollment had dropped to 14.

The school reopened in the summer of 1969 as a fresh air camp for underprivileged children from the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, N.Y. Later that year, Feltman established the Lexia School for children with learning disabilities referred to it by Massachusetts and New Jersey youth agencies. A staff of 10 supervised 20 children who paid a $6,300 tuition for a 52-week year.

By 1972, local sentiment had turned against the Lexia School, as student discipline problems in the community and suspicious fires at the school became commonplace. The Lee police and neighbors of the school consistently complained to the Selectmen about the behavior of the school's students.

The Massachusetts and New Jersey agencies withdrew their accreditation by the summer of 1973 and the school closed its doors in November of that year.

Purchased again in 1974

Sea Ventures bought the property in November 1974, but the school has remained vacant since then. The buildings on the property have deteriorated rapidly, according to Cairnes. "The property has suffered severe damage from vandalism, water and wind since we bought it," Cairnes told town officials last January.

Feltman landed himself in further trouble from several court cases stemming from his operation of the school. He was ordered by a Superior Court judge last December to pay $3,515 in back wages to seven former employes who sued for nonpayment of wages.

The last chapter in the Lexia School saga came earlier this year when the bank had to pay the back taxes Sea Ventures owed on the school. Some of the taxes were from 1973 and 1974 and represented taxes Feltman had not paid.

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Frank V. McCarthy

OLD BOOKS for sale on the front lawn were not the only attraction at the Lee Library yesterday, where these youngsters found surface along the edge of the front steps a pleasant, if somewhat scratchy, diversion. Sale of old books yielded $334.32, largest amount in history of the annual sales. Mrs. John Philpott was chairman.

Berk Courier Aug 5 1976

Sara J. Wilson of Lee shown here atop Sun Rae Tifany, was recently selected to represent Massachusetts at the National 4-H Conference next spring.

Sara Wilson Named To National 4-H Conference

LEE — Sara J. Wilson of Devon Road has been selected to represent the state of Massachusetts at the National 4-H Conference next April in Washington , D.C., the Berkshire County Extension Service announced this week. Miss Wilson, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Wilson, was one of four 4-H members across the state chosen for the event.

A junior leader with the Tyr· Lee Rough Riders, Miss Wilson, 17, was selected for junior leadership, home environment, and crafts, as well as her horse project. She submitted her 4-H records at the 4-H State Conference in Amherst in late June, and had a personel interview at that time.

Shortly after moving to Lee with her family three years ago, Miss Wilson, a native of Ohio, met Alice Hale of Tyringham, who encouraged her to join the

Eagle Dec. 13 1976

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

INSPECTING the original oil painting that will be the door prize at the Congregational church's old-fashioned bazaar tomorrow are Pamela, left, and Elaine Morehouse, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Rainsford B. Morehouse Jr. of Main Street, South Lee.

2/3/76

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Benjamin L. Ginsberg

PRESENTING RECREATIONAL program recommendations to the Lee Selectmen last night on behalf of the town's Recreation Study Committee was Joseph A. Furgal, left. Other committee members, from left, are Bonnie Viner, James Wellspeak and Douglas Wilcox (right foreground).

$23,500 recreation budget recommended in Lee report

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — The Lee Recreation Study Committee, after 16 weeks and 1,250 manhours of work, has submitted a written report to the Selectmen recommending the creation of a permanent town Recreation Committee with the power to hire a full-time director of Recreation and Parks who will administer a yearly Recreation Department budget of $23,500.

The 13-man committee based its recommendations on a survey of 186 7th through 12th graders and 478 adults, an analysis of past and current town recreation programs and a study of the recreational needs of the community.

The $23,500 budget would include $8,000 for programs and $15,500 for the Recreation Department, including a $10,500 salary for the director of Recreation and Parks.

In presenting its recommendations and the results of its survey to the Selectmen last night, committee members stressed the need for coordinating the town's existing recreational programs, as well as forming new ones. The members said such coordination was badly needed, and that would be the primary function of the director of Recreation.

The Recreation Committee hopes to submit its programs to the May town meeting for approval. The committee will now meet with the Finance Committee, School Committee and the Department of Public Works for further input. The recommendations presented last night include the use of school facilities. The Department of Public Works is now in charge of the separate programs that the committee hopes to consolidate under the Department of Recreation.

The following is a breakdown of the $8,000 program budget for 1976-77:

— Teen-age walk-in programs, $1,225. Activities would chess, photography and other hobbies, and field trips. The specific club activities would be determined by the interests of the participants.

— Girls' indoor activities, $1,225. Activities would include gymnastics, volleyball, basketball and arts and crafts.

— Girls' outdoor activities, $625. Activities would include softball, basketball, tennis and field hockey.

— Family winter activities, $625. Activities would include ice skating, snowmobiling, skiing, and assorted cultural activities.

— Summer family recreation, $600. Activities would include camping, picnicking, hiking, swimming, cultural and social activities.

— Youth sports and instruction, $1,500. Activities would include swimming, tennis, archery, camping, fitness training, gun safety and golf.

— Coeducational activities for 15-30-year-olds, $350. Activities would include bowling, bicycling, tennis, fishing, aquatic activities, hiking and camping and cultural and social activities.

— Adult recreation (30 years old and up), $350, sports activities, club activities, social activities and special interest classes.

— Social activities, $350, commemorative events, bicentennial events and social events.

Other funds included in the $8,000 are $100 for community service projects for 16-24-year-olds, $250 for staff training and $800 for special interest clubs.

The bulk of the $15,500 Recreation Department budget would pay the $10,500 salary of the director and the $3,000 salary of a part-time clerical employe. The remaining $2,000 would pay for office expenses.

Both the Selectmen and the committee members said last night that the main purpose of the recreation program should be to reach residents who are not now involved in any organized activities.

"The purpose of the program is to fill a need," said Douglas Wilcox, a member of the committee who first suggested last September that a recreation study be made.

"The primary need is to aid those not now covered by any organized activity," he said.

The committee members said they based the recommendations on what they found to be the greatest needs of Lee. Those needs include:

Providing opportunities for all youth to participate in programs where cost is not a factor; more organized activities for girls; more recreational programs that involve 15-30-year-olds; more emphasis on activities such as tennis, golf and swimming that can be done throughout life; more programs for the town's adults and more family recreation programs.

The existing organization that would be most affected by the adoption of a town recreation program is the Lee YMCA, which now offers at a cost some of the programs included in the committee's proposal.

But James Wellspeak, a member of the Recreation Study Committee and chairman of the YMCA, said he was in favor of the town-sponsored recreation program.

"The recreation program can offer things that the Y will never be able to, and at a cheaper price," Wellspeak said. "The Y has to reevaluate its position now in view of its continual financial problems. That reevaluation will be done in the light of what is done with the recreation program."

The Y suffered a drop of 100 members during the last year.

The committee was chaired by Eleanor Chapin of Washington Mountain Road, and included Wilcox of Silver Street, Wellspeak of South Lee, Joseph A. Furgal of Golden Hill Road, Linda Moran of High Street, Bonnie Viner of Tabar Avenue, representing the Sandy Beach Committee, Kevin Toomey of Main Street, Joseph V. Toole of Laurel Street, James M. Graham of Maple Street, representing the School Committee, Richard Lenfest of Fairview Street, Eugene Trombly of Housatonic Street, Millard Eckert of Marble Street and Paul Monachina of Fairview Street.

3/11/76 Eagle

Lee board accepts Navin resignation

LEE — The Selectmen Monday night accepted "with regret" the resignation of William B. Navin of High Street from the Planning Board.

Navin, who had served on the board since its inception in 1954, resigned last week after the Selectmen refused to accept the Planning Board's interpretation of a zoning bylaw.

—Peter Andrew Buratto, son of Mr. and Mrs. Reno L. Buratto of Prospect Street, has been named to the dean's list at Holy Cross College. A 1972 graduate of Lee High School, Buratto is majoring in economics and accounting.

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Lee youth arrested in fatal fire

Continued from Page 1

from the apartment, where Murray lived with his son Donald Jr. and the son's wife.

State police from both the Lee and Russell barracks were sent racing to Route 23 in Otis and Blandford Friday afternoon, after someone reported seeing the wanted youth hitchhiking along the highway.

A search of the area failed to find him, however, giving rise to the suspicion that he had gotten a ride toward Connecticut.

Simsbury police said they took the boy into custody about 9 p.m. Saturday when he was seen in the school, where a play was going on, wandering aimlessly and without a heavy coat on despite the cold weather outside.

* * * *

The police in that town, about 40 miles southeast of Lee, said they "thought they had a runaway, until one of our patrolmen remembered the teletype item" on the murder suspect, a police spokesman said.

The youth had no identification on him, refused to give his name and was "very uncommunicative," the spokesman said.

Lts. Brown and Sibley drove to Simsbury late Saturday night to identify the youth as their suspect.

Brown said yesterday that in addition to the rendition proceedings, the crowbar found in the apartment's living room by local firemen and police would be sent to state police laboratories for testing, along with "fire evidence" related to the suspected arson.

The crowbar, he said, was not in the house prior to the day of the killing, according to the Murrays.

Man dies in Lee fire; homicide is suspected

By James E. Overmyer
and
Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — Authorities are treating the fire death yesterday of 71-year-old Donald A. Murray Sr. as a possible homicide.

Murray, who shared an apartment at 5 Park St. with his son Donald Jr. and his son's wife, died apparently of smoke inhalation when his bed caught fire yesterday afternoon.

Police, however, said after an initial investigation that the death occurred under suspicious circumstances.

Head injuries Murray suffered shortly before or during the fire, coupled with other discoveries, including a possible attempt to start a fire at a house the younger Murray owns on Chapel Street in East Lee, make the fatality "an unexplained death," according to state police Detective Lt. Roy F. Sibley and Police Chief John J. Boyne.

An autopsy, to be conducted by Boston pathologist Dr. George Katsas, has been scheduled for 5:30 p.m. today, in an attempt to pinpoint the cause of Murray's death.

Sibley, in charge of Fire Marshal's investigations in the county, said the autopsy would be a "key factor" in the probe. "Until then, it leaves the thing kind of open," he added.

Nevertheless, he said, evidence pointed

Lee death
Continued on Page 13

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Lee death is possible homicide

Continued from Page 1

to a suspicious blaze, something other than the case of careless smoking that had originally been suspected.

"This could have been written off easily as smoking in bed, except for the fact that the family states Mr. Murray suffered from emphysema and hadn't smoked for two years," according to Sibley.

"That, and some other things we found, led us to suspect a homicide," Sibley added.

A preliminary investigation by Dr. Arthur L. Cassel of Great Barrington, a medical examiner, showed lacerations to the side and rear of the victim's head, Sibley added.

If Murray's death is finally ruled a homicide, it would be the second in the county this year, and continuing a grim cycle that took shape last October of a suspcious death about every five weeks here.

Previously, Berkshire County had no more than one or two homicides per year, if any.

Lee firemen were called to the Murray apartment, one of two in a building located behind the local branch of the Berkshire Bank and Trust Co., at 2:44 p.m.

The younger Murray and his wife Susan, both teachers at Lee High School, returned home then to find their apartment filled with smoke.

Unable to get inside, they called the Fire Department. Firemen wearing air masks searched the five-room apartment and found Murray lying next to his bed. They broke a bedroom window and lowered him to the ground.

The firemen were able to confine the blaze to the elder Murray's bedroom, although the entire apartment received heavy smoke damage.

Fire Chief Ottavio B. Giarolo said he was not sure how long the fire smoldered before the other members of the family discovered it.

Sibley and Boyne said that while investigating the death, they were called to an apartment house in East Lee, owned by the younger Murray, where newspaper and gasoline had been used to try and start a fire at the East Lee building. Police said the incident was "related to" the investigation of the fatal fire.

Funeral arrangments for the victim are incomplete. The Kelly Funeral Home here is in charge. Murray had most recently worked as a town switchboard operator, retiring a few years ago.

Youth arrested in death

Lee resident faces charge in fatal fire

By James E. Overmyer
and
Benjamin L. Ginsberg

Local authorities were to begin proceedings today to have a 16-year-old youth returned from Simsbury, Conn., to face a murder charge in the death of Donald A. Murray Sr. of Lee last Thursday.

The boy, a Lee resident sought by investigators since the 71-year-old Murray was found dead after a fire at his apartment, was appr[illegible]nded by Simsbury police Saturday nig[illegible] after they said they found him wandering around the high school there.

The youth had been named by state police detectives earlier in the day in a juvenile delinquency warrant for murder of Murray, and had been sought in an alert to New England police departments.

Asst. Dist. Atty. William R. Flynn, the county's chief prosecutor, said this morning that he would "definitely" seek to have the youth removed from juvenile court jurisdiction, and tried as an adult on a murder charge.

State Police Detective Lt. Roy F. Sibley and Lee Police Chief John J. Boyne were to appear in Windsor, Conn., Court of Common Pleas today to arrange rendition proceedings, a legal requirement to return the boy to Massachusetts.

* * * *

It was expected Judge Joseph Morrelli would appoint a lawyer for the boy, whose name is being withheld because of his juvenile status.

The youth and his attorney would then have the option of requesting a hearing to fight the Connecticut fugitive-from-justice charge or waiving a hearing and returning here to face the murder charge.

Murray, a retired railroad man and Lee town switchboard operator, died of a fractured skull and smoke inhalation after a mattress fire filled the apartment at 5 Park St. with smoke Thursday afternoon.

Investigating officers said they believe the man was struck over the head repeatedly, possibly with a crowbar seized as evidence in the case. Then, they said, someone apparently set fire to his bed in an attempt to cover up the beating.

The 16-year-old defendant was reported to have run away from home that same day, and had been sought only for questioning until authorities got a warrant for his arrest Saturday afternoon.

State Police Detective Lt. Milo F. Brown Jr., the head of the county's state investigating unit, said Sunday that the youth was the only suspect being sought.

He said a motive for the killing is so far "unknown" but that investigation so far has failed to find anything stolen

Lee youth arrested in fatal fire
Continued on Page 17

George B. O'Brien

LEE — George B. O'Brien, 86, of Ferncliff Avenue, caretaker at the Devon Road estate of George F. Perkins for 50 years, died yesterday at his home.

A lifelong resident of Lee, Mr. O'Brien worked at the Perkins estate until his retirement in 1970.

He is survived by his wife, the former Laura Pratt; a son, George F. O'Brien of Lee; three daughters, Mrs. Joseph Bianco, Mrs. Frank Abele and Miss Shirley O'Brien, all of Lee; a brother, Thomas O'Brien of Waterbury, Conn.; a sister, Mrs. Margaret Frappier of Waterbury, 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be Thursday at 11 at the First Congregational Church. Burial will be in Fairmount Cemetery.

Calling hours at the Kelly Funeral Home will be tomorrow and Wednesday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9.

1-26-76

Irving E. Turner; ran Lee store

Eagle 1/22/76

LEE—Irving E. Turner, 88, of Tyringham Road, former owner of Turner's Grocery Store on Water Street in East Lee, died yesterday at the Berkshire North Nursing Home here.

Born in Port Chester, N.Y., the son of Henry and Bertha Kitt Turner, he came to Lee as a child where he helped run the grocery store, which his parents owned. He operated the store after his father's death in the early 1920s until 1932, when he retired.

His wife, the former Ora Melius, died in 1966.

Mr. Turner was a member of the Evening Star Lodge, AF&AM in Lee for 50 years.

He is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Lidia Olds of Lee and Mrs. Stanley Beaudry of Lakeland, Fla.

Funeral services will be tomorrow at 11 at the Kelly Funeral Home in Lee with the Rev. Walter E. Douglas, pastor of the Berkshire Hills Baptist Church officiating. Burial will be in Fairmount Cemetery in Lee, where services will be under the direction of the Evening Star Lodge.

There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Evening Star Lodge.

Barbara Jones, officer of Lee bank

Feb. 2, 1976 Eagle

LEE — Miss Barbara A. Jones, 50, of 60 Housatonic St., the assistant treasurer of the Lee Savings Bank, a member of several town boards and a noted local singer, died yesterday at the Pittsfield General unit, BMC.

Born in Lee, the daughter of Alma Miller Jones and the late Lester Jones, she was a 1943 Pro Merito graduate of Lee High School.

She joined the Lee Savings Bank as a clerk shortly thereafter. A year later, she was named head teller of the bank. She was named assistant treasurer in 1962.

Miss Jones was a member the Republican Town Committee, the Council on Aging and a former member of the Board of Registrars.

She was a member of the First Congregational Church of Lee, and the director and soloist of its choir.

Besides her mother, she is survived by a sister, Mrs. Boyd Etheredge of Bad Aibling, Germany.

Funeral services will be tomorrow at 2 at the First Congregational Church with the Rev. Walter S. Ryan, pastor, officiating. Private burial services will be in Fairmount Cemetery.

Calling hours at the Kelly Funeral Home are today from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Berkshire Medical Center's cancer research fund or to the Music Committee of the First Congregational Church.

Lillian D. Pozzetta

LEE — Mrs. Lillian Drew Pozzetta, 71, of Robert Street, wife of G. John Pozzetta, died this morning at the Pittsfield General unit, BMC.

Born in Pittsfield, she moved to Lee in 1931.

She was a communicant of St. Mary's Church and a member of the League of the Sacred Heart. She was a former member of the St. Mary-St. Martha's Sodalty.

Besides her husband, she leaves a son, David P. Pozzetta of Lee, and a brother, John Heather of Stockbridge.

Funeral services will be Thursday at 9:15 from the Kelly Funeral Home with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 10 at St. Mary's Church. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Calling hours at the funeral home will be tomorrow from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9.

Clayton A. Hynes

Obituar

Capps, Mrs. Mary F.
Honiker, Mrs. Nellie G.
Spencer, Bertram W.
Vreeland, Mrs. Wilmer T.

Mrs. W.T. Vreeland

SOUTH LEE — Mrs. Charlotte Emery Vreeland, 71, of off Pine Street, a longtime resident of Lee, died Tuesday at her home.

A native of Irona, N.Y., she moved here as a young girl and attended Lee schools.

She was a member of the Lee congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses.

She is survived by her husband, Wilmer T. Vreeland; two sons, Harold N. Vreeland of Springfield and Kenneth R. Vreeland of South Lee; five daughters, Miss Charlotte E. Vreeland of Pittsfield, Miss Isabelle E. Vreeland of Springfield, Mrs. Henry Jean of Chicopee, Mrs. George Forfa of Housatonic and Mrs. Edward Kopec of South Hadley; a brother, Frederick Emery of Lakewood, Calif., and 20 grandchildren.

Funeral services will be Friday at 2 at the Kelly Funeral Home in Lee. Burial will be in Fairmount Cemetery.

Calling hours at the funeral home are tonight from 7 to 9 and tomorrow from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9.

Miss Barbara A. Jones

Funeral services for Barbara A. Jones of Housatonic Street, Lee, were held yesterday at the First Congregational Church in Lee with the Rev. Walter S. Ryan, pastor, officiating. Burial was in in Fairmount Cemetery.

Present at the services were delegations from the Lee Savings Bank, where Miss Jones worked for 36 years, the Lee National Bank and various town committees.

A musical tribute to Miss Jones featuring the choirs of the First Congregational Church, St. Mary's Church, St. George's Episcopal Church and the First United Methodist Church, a trumpet quartet consisting of Larry Porter, Stephen Wilkinson, Michael O'Donnell and Kenneth Fleming, organist Dorothy Bradley of Pittsfield and soloist Jacqueline Abbott of Lee was presented during the service.

Bearers were Tracy Griffin II, Tracy Griffin III, Donald Fillio Jr., and Donald Fillio Sr., all of Lee; Alfred Paterno of Lenox and Gregory Jones of Pittsfield.

Mrs. Ida Bradley

LEE — Mrs. Ida Reed Bradley, 64, of Highlawn Farms on Summer Street, a secretary for 15 years at Highlawn Farms, died yesterday at the Pittsfield General unit, BMC.

A native of Pittsfield, the daughter of the late William and Georgia Cummins Reed, she spent the greater part of her life in Lee.

Before working at Highlawn Farms, she was employed at the former Durant-Forman Insurance Co. in Lee.

Her husband, Charles Bradley, died in 1962.

She is survived by a son, William Bradley of Mechanicsburg, Pa.; a daughter, Mrs. James Clapp of Hillsdale, N.Y.; two brothers, William Reed of Largo, Fla., and Edgar Reed of Hancock, and four grandchildren.

Funeral services will be Saturday at 2 at the First Congregational Church with the Rev. Walter S. Ryan, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Fairmount Cemetery.

Calling hours at the Kelly Funeral Home will be Friday from 7 to 9.

3-1-76

Robert M. Clark, former Otis official, town's oldest resident

OTIS — Robert M. Clark, 98, of Main Street, a lifelong resident who was the town's oldest citizen, died at the New Boston Nursing Home last night.

Born here, son of James and Augusta Stratton Clark, he graduated from the Albany Business College in 1896.

In the early 1900s he served as town tax collector and was the town moderator for a number of years. He was chairman of the town Democratic Committee during the 1930 and 1940s and was cemetery commissioner and superintendent until his retirement in 1974.

As a young man, he owned and operated a livery and sales stable here. His wife, the former Katherine Whitney, died in the early 1900s.

He is survived by a son, Clifford W. Clark of Otis.

Funeral services will be Wednesday at 2 at the Kelly Funeral Home in Lee with the Rev. Earl C. Heck of Otis officiating. Burial will be in the spring in the Otis Cemetery.

Calling hours at the Kelly Funeral Home are Tuesday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9.

3-30-76

Charles A. Termini

LEE — Charles A. Termini 24, of Center Street, died yesterday at the New England Medical Center in Boston after open heart surgery.

He was the son of Eileen La-Sage Termini and the late Joseph Termini.

He was educated in the Lee school system and graduated from Lee High School.

Besides his mother, he is survived by two brothers, Joseph Termini of Spokane, Wash. and Samuel Termini of the U.S. Coast Guard in Boston; five sisters, Mrs. Beatrice O'Brien of Pittsfield, Mrs. Robert Howard of Brockton, Mrs. Harold Dean of Becket, Mrs John Bartini of Lee, and Mrs. Richard Walker of Freeport, New York.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete. The Kelly Funeral Home is in charge.

Henderson S. Dunn

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The Berkshire Eagle, Tuesday, Feb. 17, 1976 — 13

ries and Funerals

James S. Brown dies; was Lee probation officer

LEE — James S. Brown, 72, of 151 Main St., the probation officer at the Lee District Court for 17 years and an exper. on Shaker furniture, died yesterday at the St. Luke's unit, BMC.

Born in Lenox Dale, son of David and Nora Sheehan Brown, he was educated in Lenox schools.

In 1929 Mr. Brown moved to Lee, where he worked for the former Smith Paper Co. and the Peter J. Schweitzer Paper Co. for 27 years. He was married to the former Helen Hayes.

He was appointed probation officer in 1956 and retired in 1973. Lee District Court Judge John J. Dwyer, who appointed Brown to the post, issued a statement today that said in part:

"It is with deep regret that we note the passing of Jim Brown, our longtime probation officer. Jim Brown was an able and conscientious probation officer who served the court and the people of our district with deep devotion. He will be greatly missed."

The Lee District Court will be closed Thursday until 1 p.m. in memory of Mr. Brown.

Mr. Brown also served as a Lee assessor from 1968 to 1970. He was the first chairman of the Lee Toys for Joy Fund and had been a director of the drive for the past 10 years.

He was a communicant of St. Mary's Church and a former member of the Berkshire Hills Council 314 of the Knights of Columbus.

Besides his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Ralph Wilson of Ludlow, and three granddaughters.

Funeral services will be held Thursday morning at 9:15 from the Kelly Funeral Home with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 10 at St. Mary's Church. Burial will St. Mary's Cemetery.

Calling hours at the funeral home will be Wednesday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9.

Salvatore Nataro III

LEE — Funeral services for Salvatore M. Nataro III, 32, of 508 Maple St., an employe of the Peter J. Schweitzer Division of the Kimberly-Clark Corp., were held this afternoon at 2 at the Kelly Funeral Home.

Mr. Nataro died Thursday at his home of a myocardial infarction, according to the death certificate signed by Dr. Peter Albano, the associate medical examiner. Mr. Nataro's body was found Saturday.

Born in Winsted, Conn., to Salvatore Nataro Jr. and Marion Kohl Nataro, he graduated from Gilbert High School in Winsted. He moved to Hinsdale with his family in 1961. He came to Lee in 1969.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Nataro is surved by his wife, the former Elizabeth Daniels of Lee; a son, James; a daughter, Sherry; three brothers, Edward, Richard and John Nataro, all of Hinsdale, and two sisters, Mrs. Dana Harte and Mrs. Barry Brooks, both of Hinsdale.

Burial will be in the spring in the Maple Street Cemetery in Hinsdale.

Mrs. Catherine Tyer

Funeral services for Mrs. Catherine Tyer of Lee were held Saturday morning at St. Mary's Church with a Liturgy of Christian Burial celebrated by the Rev. Joseph F. Gagan, pastor. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery, where the Rev. Sean Horgan offered prayers at the grave.

Bearers were Donald P. Gibbons, Alfred F. Turner, Henry M. Donahoe, Charles G. Tucker, John E. DeVarennes and C. Marcel Brunell, all of Lee.

The members of the St. Mary-St. Martha's Sodalty formed an honor guard at the church and cemetery. Also present were members of the Lee School Committee, and delegations of teachers and nuns of St. Mary's School, teachers and administrators of the Lee school system and employes of the New England Telephone Co.

George P. Dunn

LEE — George Perkins Dunn, 78, of West Road, who was spending the winter in Florida, died Saturday of an apparent heart attack at the Ormond Beach Osteopath Hospital. Mr. Dunn was in Ormond Beach to make funeral arrangements for his brother, Henderson S. Dunn, who died Wednesday at Ormond Beach Memorial Hospital.

Born in Jersey City, N.J., George Dunn retired as president of Smith Nichols Co. of New York a few years ago. He wintered in Florida and spent the summer in Lee, where he was a member of the Lee Congregational Church.

Besides his wife, the former Evelyn Smith, he leaves two daughters, Mrs. Charlotte Quay of Lancaster, N.H., and Mrs. Pamela Durston of Birmingham, Mich.; a sister, Mrs. Barbara Johnson of Trantham, England, and seven grandchildren.

The Haigh-Black Funeral Home in Ormond Beach is in charge of arrangements. The body will be cremated. A memorial service will be held here at a later date.

Mrs. Mary H. Powers

LEE — Mrs. Mary Heaphy Powers, 67, of 121 Center St., a former employe of the Peter J. Schweitzer division, Kimberly-Clark Corp., died yesterday at her home.

Born here, she was the daughter of the late John J. Heaphy and Mary Bradley Heaphy. She worked for many years as a secretary in the billing department of the Schweitzer Division here.

She was a member of the SPINC Credit Union at the mill, and was a communicant of St. Mary's Church here.

She was the widow of John J. Powers, who died in 1973.

She is survived by two sons, Peter M. Powers of Pittsfield and John J. Powers Jr. of Sarasota, Fla., and four grandchildren.

Funeral services will be Tuesday at 9:15 from the Kelly Funeral Home with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 10 at St. Mary's Church. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Calling hours at the funeral home are Sunday from 7 to 9 and Monday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9.

John T. Gousette

John T. Gousette, 90, of the Berkshire Nursing Home, a retired papermaker at the Smith Paper Co. in Lee, died yesterday at the nursing home.

Born in Lenox Dale, he spent the early part of his life in Lee. He had lived in Pittsfield since his retirement in 1961 from the Smith Paper Co., now the Peter J. Schweitzer division, Kimberly-Clark Corp.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete. Calling hours at the Kelly Funeral Home in Lee are tomorrow from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9.

Funeral is Tuesday for victim of Lee accident

The funeral of Mrs. Helen Boyington Vincent, of 46 Silver St., East Lee, 22-year-old mother of four who was killed in a car accident on Columbia Street Friday night, will be held tomorrow at at the Kelly Funeral Home in Lee. Burial will be in Fairmount Cemetery.

Mrs. Vincent died of a compound head fracture after her car skidded on ice as it was traveling south and rammed a concrete abutment which supports overhead steam lines serving the mills of the Peter J. Schweitzer Division of Kimberly-Clark Corp.

Born in Pittsfield, daughter of Owen W. and Harriette M. Dallmeyer Boyington, she was a graduate of Crosby Junior High School and Taconic High School in 1971.

She was the wife of David W. Vincent Jr. and had lived in Lee since 1973. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Pittsfield.

Besides her husband and parents, she is survived by three sons, David W. III, Patrick and Bryan Vincent, all at home; a daughter, Carrie Ann at home, and two brothers, Roger A. Boyington of Coos Bay, Ore., and Owen W. Boyington Jr. of Pittsfield.

Calling hours at the funeral home are today from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Vincent Children's Fund at the Lee Savings Bank.

Canoe accident at Becket pond takes life of two Lee residents

LEE — Searchers Saturday morning found the bodies of two Lee men lost the night before in frigid Greenwater Pond when the 16-foot wooden canoe they were in overturned. A third man in the canoe swam safely to shore.

Dead are Steven C. Walker, 17, of Silver Street, East Lee, and Kevin J. Cahalan, 22, of Pine Street, South Lee.

Mr. Walker was buried this morning in Fairmount Cemetery here. Funeral services for Mr. Cahalan will be tomorrow morning at 10:30 from the Kelly Funeral Home with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at St. Francis Church in South Lee at 11. Burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery. Calling hours at the funeral home are today from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9.

Police said the three men were camping with five other people on the southwest side of the 93-acre lake, located in Becket near the Lee town line. The three apparently took the canoe to cross over to Route 20, which runs along the northeast side of the lake.

The accident occurred at about 10:15. The third man in the canoe, Charles Killackey of Chapel Street, East Lee, managed to swim to shore. He went to the Pleasant Point Restaurant on Route 20, where he called police.

Killackey later told police that Walker and Cahalan tried to hang onto the canoe after it capsized. But police said the two were apparently dragged under because of heavy clothes they were wearing. Police said the two were not wearing life jackets.

Search efforts by state police, Department of Natural Resources personnel, and units from the Lee and Becket Fire Departments and Becket Police continued through the night but were hampered by the cold temperatures of the water and a heavy fog.

Skin divers from the Berkshire Divers' Club began searching beneath the surface at about 6:45 a.m. Cahalan's body was found at 7:15 a.m. about 25 yards from shore. Walker's body was found nearby about an hour later.

Both were pronounced dead at the scene by Dr. Irving R. Rubin of Pittsfield, the associate medical examiner. Dr. Rubin said both died from asphyxiation by drowning and that their attempts to save themselves were hampered by the extremely cold temperatures of the spring-fed lake.

The funeral services for Walker, a sophomore at Lee High School, were held this morning at the First Congregational Church with the Rev. Russell Loesch officiating.

Mr. Walker lived here all his life. He was a member of the Hurlbut Little League championship team in 1970 and played on the high school soccer and basketball teams. He was enrolled in the school's industrial arts program and participated in the school's second house building project.

Kevin J. Cahalan

Steven C. Walker

He is survived by his parents, William A. and Doris LaGrant Walker; five brothers, William R. Walker and John T. Walker, both of Lee, and Donald F. Walker, Robert J. Walker and James A. Walker, all at home, and four sisters, Patricia A. Walker, Jane M. Walker, Susan T. Walker, and Michelle L. Walker, all at home.

Present at the funeral were representatives of the Lee school system and the sophomore class of the high school.

Bearers were Mr. Walker's five brothers, and Howard Baker, John Killackey and Glenn Wilcox, all of Lee. Honorary bearers, all students at the high school, were Scott Wilcox, Kevin Gleason, Hugh Pecon Jr., Daniel Bundy, Michael Winters, Charles Killackey, William Brazee, Lee Soules and Charles Soules.

Mr. Cahalan, a 1974 Lee High School graduate, was a U.S. Air Force veteran working at the U.S. Fiber Co. in Lee. He was a communicant of St. Francis Church. He was the son of James Cahalan and the late Beatrice Waters Cahalan.

Besides his father, he is survived by eight brothers, Gerald J. Cahalan, Martin L. Cahalan, Merrill E. Cahalan, Thomas E. Cahalan, Keith L. Cahalan, and Jeffrey J. Cahalan, all of Lee, Dennis J. Cahalan of Housatonic, and Ronald L. Cahalan of Spokane, Wash., and four sisters, Mrs. Heamon Williams of South Lee, Mrs. Edward Williams of Lenox Dale, and Holly L. Cahalan and Judith A. Cahalan, both at home.

Mrs. Dorothy Carter

LEE — Mrs. Dorothy Anson Carter, 72, of 57 Main St., widow of Edward Carter, died at the St. Lukes unit, BMC, last night after a long illness.

Born in North Egremont, she was educated in Great Barrington schools.

She moved to New York City as a young girl and was employed by the New York Telephone Company until her retirement in 1954.

After her husband's death in 1966 she moved to Lee.

Mrs. Carter was a life member of the New York Telephone Club and was past secretary and treasurer of the organization. She also belonged to the League of Women Voters, Lee Grange, and was a communicant of St. Mary's Church and a member of St. Martha's Sodality.

She was a member of the Lee Golden Agers, the Brooklyn Women's Republican Club and the Pittsfield Golden Agers and Senior Citizens.

Funeral services will be at 9:15 Tuesday from the Kelly Funeral Home with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 10 at St. Mary's Church. Burial will be in St. Bridget's Cemetery, Housatonic.

Friends may call at the funeral home Monday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m.

2/20/76

Cafe 4-22-76

Gaynel W. Nickerson

LEE — Gaynel W. Nickerson, 63, of Cape Street in East Lee, husband of the former Marguerite Tolvo, died this morning at Hillcrest Hospital, Pittsfield.

Born in Middlefield, son of the late Paul and Ethel Graves Nickerson, he spent the greater part of his life here, where he was the owner and operator of the G. W. Nickerson Trucking Co. He was a member of the Middlefield Men's Club.

Survivors besides his wife include a son, Ronald J. of Stockbridge; a brother, Neil Nickerson of Middlefield; two half brothers, Rodney and Donald Savery, both of Middlefield; a sister, Mrs. Gladys Gage of Lee; and a half sister, Mrs. Raymond Pulver of Cheshire.

The funeral will be Saturday morning at 11:15 from the Kelly Funeral Home, followed at noon by a Liturgy of Christian Burial at St. Mary's Church. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery. Calling hours at the Kelly Funeral Home will be tomorrow from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9.

3-22-76

Obituaries a

Ernest J. Scarpa, 55; owned contracting firm

LEE — Ernest J. Scarpa, 55, of Mandalay Road, founder and owner of Western Mass. Contracting Engineers, Inc., died yesterday morning at his home.

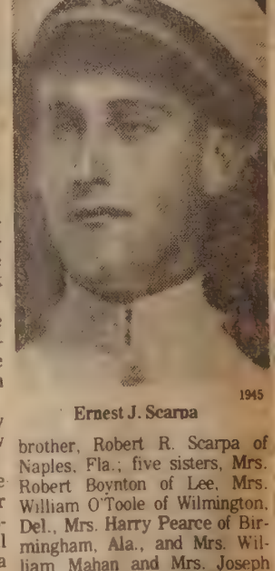
Born in Lancaster, the son of the late August and Jemma Eugenia Scarpa, he moved to Lee in 1950. He was a 1943 graduate of Worcester Polytechnical Institute and attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge and Northeastern University in Boston.

He served in the South Pacific during World War II with the Navy Civil Engineer Corps. After the war, he worked in Venezuela and Alaska, and on the Tennessee Atomic Plant at Oak Ridge.

Mr. Scarpa worked for the George E. Emerson Construction, Inc., of Pittsfield for five years, before starting his own firm in 1955.

He also used to own Mandalay Resort in Lee, which is now known as the Lexia School.

He is survived by his wife, the former Jean Danforth; four sons, Paul J., John E., Christopher and Mark E. Scarpa, all at home; a daughter, Miss Cara J. Scarpa, also at home; a brother, Robert R. Scarpa of Naples, Fla.; five sisters, Mrs. Robert Boynton of Lee, Mrs. William O'Toole of Wilmington, Del., Mrs. Harry Pearce of Birmingham, Ala., and Mrs. William Mahan and Mrs. Joseph Pasquale, both of Clinton.



1945

Ernest J. Scarpa

The funeral will be Wednesday morning at 9:15 from the Kelly Funeral Home with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 10 at St. Mary's Church. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Calling hours at the funeral home are tonight from 7 to 9 and tomorrow from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Berkshire Medical Center's Cancer Research Fund in Mr. Scarpa's memory.

3/16/76

Victor Pellizzaro dies in Florida boat mishap

LEE — Victor G. Pellizzaro, 70, of Highfield Drive and St. Petersburg, Fla., was killed yesterday when the 18-foot motorboat he was operating collided with another 18-foot motorboat in Boca Ciega Bay near St. Petersburg.

Mr. Pellizzaro, who had lived in Lee since 1918, owned a home in Florida for several years. He was a general contractor and mason before retiring in 1970.

The Florida Marine Patrol said the accident occurred in a 3-mile-long and 1-mile-wide channel in clear visibility.

"It was just one of those things that seems like it couldn't have happened," said Lt. E.R. Harding of the patrol. "The two boats should have seen each other for at least three to five minutes before the accident."

Mr. Pellizzaro was killed apparently when he was thrown through the windshield of his boat. A woman traveling in the other boat, operated by John E. Leverock of Readington Shores, Fla., was reported slightly injured in the accident. There were no other injuries reported.

Mr. Pellizzaro had two passengers on his boat — Amandee Wohlschaeger, a cartoonist with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch who was covering the St. Louis Cardinals' spring training, and Stephen Nicholson of South Pasadena, Fla. There were four people on the Leverock boat.

Lt. Harding said that no charges had yet been filed as a result of the accident. An autopsy on Mr. Pellizzaro was to be performed today by the state medical examiner in Largo, Fla.

Funeral arrangements are still incomplete. The Kelly Funeral Home is in charge.

Mr. Pellizzaro was born in Venetia, Italy, and came to this country as a young boy. He was the son of Eugene and Teresa Mettifogo Pellizzaro.

He began his career as a mason and contractor in 1924 with the late Dominic Lana. He was then the youngest mason in Berkshire County. He began his own business in 1931.

He was a charter member of the Lee Kiwanis Club and was instrumental in building the Lee Sportsmen's Club. In the early 1950s, he donated much of the material to build Lee's first Little League baseball field.

Mr. Pellizzaro is survived by his wife, the former Matilda Salice; three daughters, Mrs. Eugene Frulla of Andover, Mrs. John Flynn and Mrs. Robert Frulla, both of Lee; two stepbrothers, Oriesti Rigadonzo of Housatonic and Francis Nardi of Kingston; a sister, Mrs. Hugo Bertelli of Pittsfield, and 11 grandchildren.

Mrs. William Miles

3-17-76

Funeral set Friday for Lee victim of Fla. boat accident

LEE — Funeral services for Victor G. Pellizzaro of Highfield Drive, who was killed Monday in a boating accident near St. Petersburg, Fla., will be held Friday at 9:15 from the Kelly Funeral Home with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 10 at St. Mary's Church. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Calling hours for Mr. Pellizzaro will be tomorrow from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 at the funeral home.

Lt. E.R. Hardy of the Florida Marine Patrol, the officer in charge of the investigation of the two-boat collision, said this morning that Mr. Pellizzaro's 18-foot boat struck the left rear of another 18-foot boat in clear visibility in the middle of a 3-mile long and 1-mile wide channel.

A woman was reported slightly injured in the accident. A total of seven people were aboard the two boats.

"The operator of the boat, the man who was killed, was technically in the wrong," Hardy said. He added that no charges would be filed in the accident.

An autopsy was performed on Mr. Pellizzaro's body yesterday. Hardy said a report would be completed by Friday, and that Mr. Pellizzaro was apparently killed when he was thrown through the windshield of his boat into the waters of Boca Ciega Bay.

Charles N. Post

10-19-76

Charles 'Bud' Arment; was blacksmith

LEE — Charles "Bud" Arment, 73, of 210 High St., who ran a blacksmith's shop in his backyard for many years, died this morning at the Pittsfield General unit, BMC.

Born in Bellville, N.J., the son of the late Charles and Mary Ann Healey Arment, he moved here as a young boy.

He was a longtime employe of the former Smith Paper Co. and later the Peter J. Schweitzer Paper Co. as a blacksmith. He retired in 1969. He continued to operate his shop at his home after he retired, making everything from decorative gates to chisels and pinch bars.

He was also an honorary member of the Lee Fire Department, a member of the SPINC Athletic Association at the mill, and a communicant of St. Mary's Church.

He is survived by his wife, the former Helen Gibbons; a son, Peter J. Arment of Lenox; a brother, Joseph Arment of Lee; two sisters, Mrs. James Wellington of Lenox Dale and Mrs. Frank Bracknell of Lee, and four grandchildren.

The funeral will be Thursday morning at 9:15 from the Kelly Funeral Home with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at St. Mary's Church at 10. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Calling hours at the funeral home will be tonight from 7 to 9 and tomorrow from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9.

Mrs. Vera Baker

LEE — Mrs. Vera Funk Baker, 75, of 213 Water St., died yesterday at the St. Luke's unit, BMC.

A native of South Egremont, she spent the greater part of her life in Lee.

She was the widow of Howard Baker, who died in 1943.

Mrs. Baker is survived by two sons, Vernon W. Baker of Lee and Clarence D. Baker of Tustin, Calif.; a daughter, Mrs. Frederick Maxwell of Auburn, N.Y.; two sisters, Mrs. Francis Stupplebeen of Egremont and Mrs. Myrtle Funk of Lee; 13 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be Wednesday at 12:30 at the Kelly Funeral Home with the Rev. Robert A. Freeman, rector of St. George's Episcopal Church, officiating. Burial will be in Fairmount Cemetery.

Calling hours at the funeral home will be tonight from 7 to 9 and tomorrow from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9.

3-22-76

10-19-76

Joseph P. Bossidy

LEE — Joseph P. Bossidy, 65, of 25 Chestnut St., New Paltz, N.Y., a native of Lee, died this morning at Horton Memorial Hospital in Middletown.

Born in Lee, he graduated from Lee High School and attended Holy Cross College. He was an Air Force veteran of World War II.

After leaving the service, he worked in various resort hotels in New York State until his retirement in 1974.

He is survived by a brother, James N. Bossidy of Pittsfield.

The funeral will be Friday at 10 at St. Mary's Church. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Calling hours at the Kelly Funeral Home are Thursday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9.

Obituar

Joseph C. Lahert, former proprietor of Lee garage

LEE — Joseph C. Lahert, 62, of 114 Summer St., the manager of the Lenox Club for 25 years, died of a heart condition Saturday at the Pittsfield General unit, BMC.

Lenox Club for 25 years, died of a heart condition Saturday at the Pittsfield General unit, BMC.

Born in Lenox and educated at the town's schools, until 1961 he also owned and operated Lahert Motor Sales, now Fraser Sales, Inc. He was named manager of the Lenox Club in 1951 succeeding his father in the position.

He was an Army veteran of the World War II European campaign and received the Bronze Star.

He was a communicant of St. Mary's Church and a member of the Berkshire Council 314 of the Knights of Columbus.

He and his wife, the former Mary Connors, observed their 35th wedding anniversary last June.

Besides his wife, Mr. Lahert is survived by a son, Joseph Peter Lahert of Ft. Pierce, Fla.; two daughters, Mrs. Jerald Armstrong of St. Louis, Mo., and Miss Judith A. Lahert, at home; a brother, Thomas F. Lahert of Lenox; two sisters, Mrs. James Navin of Lee and Mrs. Thomas Quinlan of Roseville, Mich, and five grandchildren.

Funeral services will be tomorrow at 9 from Mr. Lahert's Summer Street home with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 10 at St. Mary's Church. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Calling hours at the Summer Street home are at the convenience of friends. The members of the Knights of Columbus will hold an 8 p.m. service at the home tonight.

1-3-77

Death claims Bridget Deely at 110; Lee resident was oldest in county

LEE — Miss Bridget Mary Deely, 110, oldest resident in Berkshire County and believed to be the oldest in the state, died Saturday at the 92 Center Street home she shared with her brother, Charles, 93. The cause of death was respiratory arrest.

Her brother, who will celebrate his 94th birthday next month, said his sister was mentally alert and served all the meals at their home until confined to her upstairs bedroom more than two months ago.

He said, however, that her hearing and eyesight were "down" in recent years.

A lifelong resident of Lee, she was born here on July 9, 1866, "the year after the war ended." She spent her life in two Center Street houses. The one her brother still lives in was built in 1903 on the site of an earlier family home that was torn down because it was too small.

She operated a flourishing dressmaking business from her home from 1890 until the late 1920s. She later worked on the former Gross estate on Marble Street for about 20 years.

In recent years, getting meals for herself and her brother and practicing her Catholic religion were her main interests, according to Charles Deely.

A guest at her 110th birthday celebration last July noted: "Still possessed with a sharp mind and firm voice, Miss Deely drank champagne . . ., as she has for many past birthdays."

The second oldest of nine children, she came from a family noted for its longevity. Her mother, the former Mary Clark, died at 92 and her father, Michael Deely, died in his 70s. Her one sister was 93 when she died and two brothers were 91 at the time of their deaths.

Two other brothers were in their 80s when they died.

When asked about her longevity at her 100th birthday party, Miss Deely replied that "getting old is something you do from the start."

Bridget M. Deely

At her birthday party five years later, she told a reporter that "staying busy and eating three good meals a day" were the reasons for her good health.

Besides her brother, she leaves several nieces and nephews. She was a cousin of the late Martin Deely, who founded Lee Lime Corp. in 1870. It is now headed by his grandson, Martin H. Deely.

A Funeral Mass will be held tomorrow morning at 8:15 from her Center Street home, followed with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 9 at St. Mary's Church. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Calling hours at the Center Street home will be today from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9.

Kit Dobelle named to inaugural panel

Kit Dobelle of 114 Ridge Ave., the wife of former Pittsfield Mayor Evan S. Dobelle and an active worker in Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign, has been named to the Massachusetts host committee for the Carter inaugural.

Mrs. Dobelle said this morning that the committee's primary function will be to assist Massachusetts residents attending the inaugural festivities in Washington later this month.

She said the committee's precise duties have not yet been discussed.

85

Lee board okays summer school; with reprimand for Boulanger

By Mark Miller

LEE — The Lee School Committee voted unanimously Tuesday night to approve a summer school English make-up course for 30 high school students, 27 of whom had signed up for the course and paid $15 each for it earlier in the day.

The motion contained a reprimand for Supt. Maurice J. Boulanger for instituting the program and then asking the board to approve it. This is the first summer a make-up session has ever been held at the high school.

In previous summers, students needing to make up credits in English — the only subject which needs to be passed all four years — have taken summer English courses elsewhere, mostly at Monument Mountain Regional High School.

Boulanger said the students could expect to pay two or three times the amount to make up the credits outside the Lee school system.

Board chairman Henry G. Greiner said he feared the board might make passing English too easy if a student could make up in four weeks what he or she could not pass in a whole school year.

Boulanger said he learned of the 30 English failures only when the final marks were posted. The board said he should have been given some indication of the situation at the end of the third marking period and notified the board then.

A heated discussion over the English failures, many more than in past years, led Marguerite C. Tristany to suggest that the board conduct sessions with teachers by department to discuss their courses. Greiner endorsed the proposal but said he would prefer to schedule a third night each month for the sessions because in the past they have added considerably to the length of the board's twice monthly meetings. After the meeting, Miss Tristany said the board should not have to be burdened with the sessions, but Lee has never created the position of curriculum coordinator to do the job the board has to do.

Four sophomores, 13 freshmen and 10 juniors are signed up for the summer English courses. Part of the motion the board passed directed Boulanger to write to parents of three students who failed English during the school year but did not enroll for the summer course. None of the 30 students are in the college preparatory program.

The summer classes, which will be taught by Kathleen Hall, will be 1½ hours each day. The 14 sophomores and juniors will be combined in one class and the 13 freshmen in the other.

In other business, the board awarded the 1976-77 school bus contract to F.N. Graves and Son Inc., which submitted the lowest of three bids for the contract. The bid was $42,200. Bids of $45,360 and $48,500 were submitted by Dufour Brothers and Peter D. Frazier, respectively.

The board voted to approve Boulanger's recommendations of two applicants to teach home economics and industrial arts. Neither applicant is a Lee resident. Before approving the two, board members scanned the applications of several others who were interviewed by Boulanger.

The board also discussed the appointment of Roland Besaw, the school system's audiovisual technician who was originally hired under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act. Joseph Savery expressed his displeasure over the fact that Besaw would be paid more by the school system for a shorter work year. Savery agreed with Boulanger, however, that Besaw's performance in the job had been good. He objected to the increase in Besaw's pay without the board's being notified. Boulanger replied that the salary was in the school budget approved by the board.

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

DISCUSSING BIDS submitted last night for construction of Lee's middle school wing are, seated from left, architect John J. Fisher, School Building Commission Chairman John E. DeVarennes, and SBC member John Laughlin. Pointing, at left, is School Committee Chairman Henry G. Greiner. Next to him are Selectmen Martin H. Deely and Joseph J. Castronova. Bids from six firms were opened at the high school library.

Lowest bid for Lee school wing calls for non-union electricians

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — George E. Emerson, Inc. of Pittsfield submitted a low bid of $1,123,600 last night as six firms vied for the contract to build a new middle school wing here.

Emerson's bid was almost $26,000 less than the second lowest bidder, Renau Construction Co. of Pittsfield.

Emerson's bid combined with the $63,718 paid to Joseph Francese, Inc., of Pittsfield, for renovation work to the Central School means that the total cost of the project is still well below the $1,471,000 town meeting representatives have appropriated for the work.

The chairman of the School Building Commission, John E. DeVarennes, said last night that he hopes to have the Selectmen sign the contract for the work next Tuesday. Construction of the new wing is expected to be completed by the opening of school next year.

Other bidders last night were Arace Construction Co. of Pittsfield, $1,155,224; Francese, $1,158,222; David Tierney Construction Co. of Pittsfield, $1,234,000, and Grondahl Construction Co. of Connecticut, $1,239,696.

Three problems with the awarding of the contract sprung up last night.

The most serious of them is that Emerson's electrical subcontractor, Easthampton Electrical Services, Inc., is a non-union firm.

Members of the School Committee and the SBC revealed at last night's meeting that they had been visited by representatives of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 284 of the A.F. of L.

The town officials — ranging from School Committee Chairman Henry G. Greiner, DeVarennes, and SBC members Michael Thomas Vecchia and Robert Boynton — said the union representatives had told them that picket lines had formed at other jobs where non-union workers were mixed with union workers. All of Emerson's other subcontractors are members of local unions.

The town officials, while saying there were no threats made by the union representatives, conceded that union electricians might picket the job if the non-union Easthampton firm worked on the job. And the town officials also said that if union pickets were at the site, workers from other unions would honor the lines. That could delay work on the project, the town officials conceded.

The union representatatives also said, according to the town officials, that unemployment was high among the members of the Pittsfield-based union, and that hiring an Easthampton firm would mean that nearly $75,000 in wages would leave the area.

But several town officials pointed out there was no guarantee that Lee residents would get the electricians work even if the subcontract was given to a firm that used the local union. The union represents electricans from throughout Berkshire County.

Furthermore, the town officials said they were bound legally to award the contract to the low bidder, unless some proof that the firm had submitted a false bid could be found.

The Easthampton firm's bid was $1,800 lower than the second lowest electrical subcontractor.

Town officials plan to review the entire contract with Town Counsel James P. Dohoney on Friday. The officials said Dohoney would decide if any of the bids or sub-bids should be thrown out.

The second of the three problems involved the roofing subcontractor. Architect John H. Fisher said the low bid of $19,560 submitted by A.L. Freedman, Inc., of Springfield, seemed too low to him. Fisher said he would check and make sure Freedman's bid met the contract specifications.

The third problem, considered minor by Fisher and SBC officials, involved a challenge to the type of boiler called for in the specifications. The fourth lowest bidder, McLean Heating Co. of Springfield, has submitted the challenge. Fisher must attend a hearing in Boston on Friday.

"The challenge sounds like a formality, it shouldn't hold up the contract," DeVarennes said last night. "Even if the challenge is successful, which John (Fisher) says it shouldn't be based on precedents he has shown me, the guy is still the fourth lowest bidder. That won't change."

In other business involving the construction project, DeVarennes said that interviews for the Clerk of the Works position for the job will begin on Sept. 14. The interviews were to have begun Friday, but had to be postponed because Fisher has to go to Boston for the hearing on the heater challenge.

Fisher said the delay in the interviews would not delay the start of the project. He also said he thinks there will be at least five or six applicants for the job.

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alli of George Street, who was among six unemployed union members brought to last night's meeting by Local 84's business agent, Donald Soule.

"That school will be held up. It will take two or three years. There's no way we're going to let that one go," Comalli continued.

But members of the School Building Commission (SBC) said they would be subject to a lawsuit from Easthampton Electrical Services if they rejected that firm's low bid without legal merit.

Donald Soule
Electricians' union business agent

John E. DeVarennes, the SBC chairman, said the Easthampton bid could have been legally rejected on only two grounds — if it could be legally proven that the firm would not be able to work "in harmony" with the other unions on the job or that the firm was not capable of doing a job as big as the middle school.

On the harmony issue, DeVarennes said: "The general contractor and the subcontractors have pledged in writing to work in harmony. There will probably be a strike, but it's like saying I'm never going to be president. You can say it but you can't prove it. Union members saying they will strike is not a legal hook for our hats."

On the subject of capability, the president of Easthampton Electric, David Mitowski, produced letters from general contractors his firm had worked under in the past.

Mitowski read a letter from a contractor on a job where Mitowski's firm had done $140,000 worth of work. The Lee school job is for $106,000, and the SBC's architect, John H. Fisher of Pittsfield, said the letter demonstrated that Easthampton could do the work.

The formal SBC vote to award the contract to Emerson, and therefore a subbid to Easthampton Electric, was 4-3. Voting in the majority were DeVarennes, John F Laughlin, Nancy Warden and Robert Lucy. Voting in

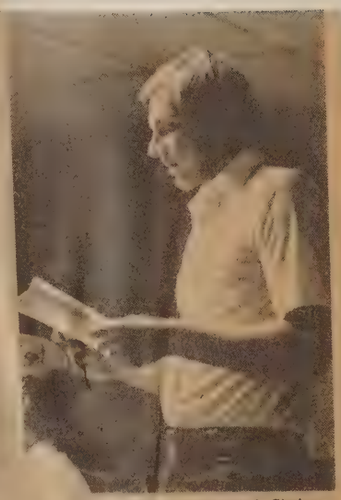
The officials will also count on pressure from local residents to keep the strike short. Under state labor laws, any qualified local residents applying to work on the job must be given hiring preference. And the town officials pointed out that if the middle school wing was not completed by next year's Sept. 2 start of school, it would mean another year of double sessions.

Double sessions have not been popular in Lee because families can have different children in school from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. "Those double sessions have really disorganized families," one official said. "And some of those guys on the job will have kids going to double sessions. No one in this town wants to see double sessions continue for another year."

Another town official pointed out that double sessions were costing the town's taxpayers close to $90,000 a year in added transportation and utility costs.

Soule, the major speaker at the 80-minute public hearing attended by about 20 people, based his arguments for rejecting the non-union electricans on the harmony clause and the fact that a union contractor would use local people. But Mitowski also promised to use local help.

After DeVarennes rejected the harmony argument has a means for awarding the electrical work to a union shop, Soule told the town offi-



Photos by Benjamin L. Ginsberg

Iavid Mitowski
Non-union lectrical subcontractor

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

DELIBERATING over the choice of a contractor for the construction of Lee's new middle school wing last night is the School Building Commission. The session followed an 80-minute public hearing. Pictured clockwise from left are John Loughlin, Chairman John E. DeVarennes, Nancy Warden, Robert Boynton (smoking cigarette), Michael T. Vecchia, and Robert Lucy (back to camera).

Either a strike or a lawsuit

Emerson to build new school in Lee

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — Faced with either a certain lawsuit or a certain strike, town officials last night opted for the strike and awarded the contract for construction of a new middle school to George E. Emerson, Inc., of Pittsfield for $1,123,600. Work could begin as early as next week.

Emerson's electrical subcontractor — the only non-union firm on the job — will be Easthampton Electrical Services, Inc. Members of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 264 of the AFL-CIO promised at an 80-minute public hearing before the contract was awarded last night that they would set up an informational picket line around the construction site if the Easthampton firm was on the job.

"And there's no way guys who are members of another union will cross that picket line," said George T. Com-

Ralph Emerson
Low-bidding contractor

the minority were Robert Boynton, Michael T. Vecchia and Maritta Stratton.

The three Selectmen voted unanimously to follow the SBC's recommendation.

Town officials said after the vote that an Easthampton lawsuit would have delayed the start of the project indefinitely. They further pointed out that a strike would go on only when the electrical contractor was working on his part of the job, meaning that the general contractor could begin immediately.

Furthermore, the town officials said they did not think that a strike would be long. "A guy will undoubtedly honor the picket line. But he has to worry about where his check is coming from too. I think he'll stay out, do his bit for the union, and then go back on the job. There's no way of telling how long a strike like this would last, and there's no way of saying what makes a strike turn on and off," one official explained.

cials:

"There is no threat intended, but I would be remiss if I leave any legal stone unturned. That would include informational picketing of the strike and telling all the trade unions in the area that there was a non-union subcontractor on the job. And I can tell you that in Berkshire County, without exception, a job that has had only one non-union subcontractor has had strong harmony problems."

The second low electrical subbidder was R.A. Turner, Inc., a union contractor whose bid was $1,800 higher than Easthampton's.

Members of the SBC and the Selectmen insisted that money had nothing to do with not chosing Turner.

"We just don't have a legal hook to hang our hat on," DeVarennes said.

Another problem, considered minor by officials, is a challenge to the specifications of the heating and ventilating subbid lodged with the state by McLean Heating Co. of Springfield. Town officials have not learned the results of a Friday hearing in Boston on the challenge.

DeVarennes and Fisher said last night that the project would not be held up even if the heating bids had to be resubmitted. The challenge concerns the specifications for a boiler for the school.

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Ralph Brown

THE MOUNT, one of Foxhollow's buildings. was the home of novelist Edith Wharton.

Eagle 8/24/76

Foxhollow School closing because of rising costs

By Susan M. Besaw

LENOX — Inadequate enrollment is closing Foxhollow School, a private, preparatory school for girls here, after 46 years of operation, headmaster Thomas P. Ryan announced today.

Foxhollow has been the only survivor of the schools that date back to the days when Lenox was a major center for private, secondary education. The other major private schools in Lenox of that period; Cranwell, Lenox School and Windsor Mountain, have all closed within the past five years, primarily because of a lack of enrollment at a time when operating costs increased rapidly.

The statement released by Ryan this morning said: "The board of trustees of Foxhollow School, Inc., voted at a recent meeting to cease operation of the secondary girls' boarding school effective immediately."

"A reason cited for the unanimous vote of those trustees present included enrollments, which while increasing slightly each year, were inadequate to generate enough cash to meet operating expenses. Also cited was the fact that with the impending sale of the Mount, the upper campus could not house enough girls to keep the school financially viable."

Ryan said that enrollment at Foxhollow, which caters to young girls from wealthy families, has been averaging in the low 40s over recent years. Although 48 girls, an increase of seven over last year, had enrolled for this coming fall, 65 students would be needed to make the school a viable operation.

"Enrollment has been getting better, but not fast enough," Ryan admitted.

Complicating the enrollment problem, he said, is the impending sale of the Mount, the mansion built in 1902 by novelist Edith Wharton and her husband, Edward.

The large mansion, which is listed on the National Register of historical sites, had been used until recently by Foxhollow for dormitory housing. But the board of trustees put the mansion and about

Foxhollow School
Continued on Page 13

130 acres of the school campus up for sale this summer to raise money to continue operating the school. Foxhollow has no endowment income.

Ryan said that the school has had a "serious offer" from a prospective buyer of the Mount.

Without the Mount, Foxhollow can only "comfortably" house 55 students, Ryan said, which is at least 10 below the number needed to keep the school operating.

He added that Foxhollow now only has a small mortgage on the property and school officials decided to close for this fall rather than mortgaging the property "to the hilt" if new dormitories were built.

"If we've got to leave, we want to leave with our heads held high," Ryan said.

"The school is not heavily in debt and cash resources are immediately available to pay all existing obligations as well as to provide housing on campus for faculty and staff for several months," Ryan added.

He said the board of trustees will meet soon to decide what to do with the property.

Foxhollow School was founded in Rhinebeck, N.Y., in 1930 by Miss Aileen Farrell, who moved the campus to the old Westinghouse estate off Route 7 here in 1939. The upper campus is on the former Alfred G. Vanderbilt estate. The Mount was purchased two years after the school moved to Lenox.

Miss Farrell, who served as headmistress for 40 years and is now a trustee emerita, expressed deep regret this morning over the closing of the school. She currently lives on the campus.

"We are all very, very sad about it," she commented.

Richard J. Herbert Jr., the headmaster of Rockwood Academy, the 13-year-old private school for boys on Stockbridge Road, said this morning that Rockwood for the second consecutive year does not plan to open as a college preparatory institution. Lack of enrollment is also blamed in this case.

Herbert said, however, that he has been approached by the Division of Youth Services (DYS) about the possibility of just housing court-referred students at Rockwood under close supervision.

Previously, Rockwood has housed DYS students along with college preparatory boys. Herbert said that if the DYS plan was instituted, he would not serve as headmaster, but his family would probably continue to hold ownership of the land and buildings.

He said, however, that the rest of his family is away on vacation and the DYS proposal has not been discussed as yet.

AERIAL VIEW of Stockbridge School on Route 183 is looking northwest. The 26-year-old school announced yesterday that it will not reopen this fall. The school buildings were once the estate of the noted Republican Mark Hanna. Declining enrollment was cited as the cause for the closing. Story, Page One.

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2-13-76

Lee school-aid decision due in summer

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

CHANCES of Lee receiving state school aid were discussed by Lee and state officials at a meeting at the Statehouse in Boston yesterday. In top photo are, from left, John Calabro, director of the state School Building Assistance Bureau and Elton Smith of the SBAB. In bottom photo are, from left, Sen. Walter J. Boverini of Lynn and Rep. Frank J. Matrango of North Adams.

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

BOSTON — The only way Lee town meeting representatives will be able to know the chances of receiving state aid for a new middle school is if they postpone a town meeting scheduled for March until August at least, state education officials and state legislators told Lee officials yesterday at a Statehouse meeting. John Calabro, director of the School Building Assistance Bureau (SBAB) said yesterday that Lee, because its old school was demolished, enjoys one of the highest priorities for state funds in fiscal year 1978, if any money is available.

"Based on the preliminary list put together by me and my staff, you stand a very good chance of getting funding, if the money is there, because you have a demolished building," Calabro said.

But Rep. Frank J. Matrango of North Adams and Sen. Walter J. Boverini of Lynn, chairmen of the House and Senate education committees, said the bills including school building funds would not be voted on until August at the earliest.

That means town meeting representatives will vote next month on whether to build a new middle school or a wing at the Central School without knowing if state aid will be available for the middle school.

The possibility of postponing the town meeting vote until the state education bills are acted on was raised yesterday by David Wells, a member of Lee Education for Today's and Tomorrow's Students (LETTS), at an informal discussion after the meeting with state officials.

John E. DeVarennes, the chairman of the town School Building Commission (SBC), said he was not sure it was wise to postpone the vote.

He cited the public pressure to end double sessions for the town's 5th-8th graders, which have been in effect since the southern wing of the Central School was condemned last May.

"The pressure to end the double sessions is such that we can't really put off the vote. Personally, I think it would be a mistake to put it off," DeVarennes.

But Edward F. Murray, the chairman of the Selectmen, said: "If there's enough popular pressure, we will consider postponing the vote until the state has a budget."

DeVarennes pointed out that postponing the vote did not guarantee Lee would receive state aid. He also said postponing the start of either project would make them both more expensive.

"Don't forget that inflation pushes the construction costs up about 1 per cent a month," DeVarennes said.

Calabro injected one streak of hope into the town's deliberations over the new school facility.

Town officials had been told by New England Merchants National Bank of Boston that an article could not be written stating that construction of a new school would be contingent on receiving state aid.

But Calabro said that the SBAB and state Department of Education had approved such articles in the past.

DeVarennes said the town would seek a bond counsel who would write an article with the contingency provision.

Without the contingency provision, representatives will have to appropriate the entire cost of a new school. State aid would reduce the cost of the school by about $1.5 million.

Town officials also received some bad news about state funding. Elton Smith, the SBAB's administrative assistant, said that the bill the state legislature will act on this summer includes only 51 per cent reimbursement for new construction and 25 per cent reimbursement on the interest payments on the bonds used to finance the school.

Town officials had figured the cost of the middle school on the current, and more generous, reimbursement rates of 53 per cent for new construction and 53 per cent for interest.

Calabro and Smith confirmed what town officials had been previously told about state aid for the Central School wing — none would be available on the grounds that a new wing on an already inadequate site was not a good investment.

The state officials said the Central School site was inadequate because it was too small and because the existing parts of the Central School were too old.

Yesterday's meeting was set up by Sen. John H. Fitzpatrick of Stockbridge and Rep. Dennis J. Duffin of Lenox.

Lee officials attending the meeting were DeVarennes, Wells, Murray, Maurice J. Boulanger, superintendent of schools, Robert Lucy, principal of the Lee High School, James M. Graham of the School Committee, Marritta Stratton of the SBC; and Neil Clark of LETTS.

Lee need for added space

3/23/76 Eagle

Central School wing seen as adequate solution

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — The town's top school building planner disagreed Thursday night with the state's contention that building a wing at the Central School would be a poor investment.

John E. DeVarennes, the chairman of the School Building Commission (SBC), said in response to a question at a public hearing Thursday night on the town's two options for a new middle school facility that he thought the wing could be "a wise investment."

The hearing was held to discuss the SBC's plans for the wing at the Central School and a new school on Maple Street. A town meeting on March 25 will vote on the two options.

No state funding

The state has said the wing would be a poor investment and refused to fund it on the grounds it would be built on an overcrowded site and because the existing classrooms in the Central School are too small to meet the state's current requirements. The state has also indicated it is reluctant to fund buildings which are not freestanding.

DeVarennes said that while the new middle school would be a larger facility on a much better site, he thinks the wing would be adequate to house the educational programs for the 5th-8th grades.

More than 125 people attended the public hearing at the high school and asked more than a dozen questions. Other points made at the hearing were:

— The same educational programs could be conducted in the wing as in the new middle school, school officials said. The only differences would be that the new school would have four more classrooms than a wing and that the middle school rooms would be larger. The smallest wing classroom would be 685 square feet and the smallest middle school classroom would be 900 square feet.

— Both options are designed as "long-range" solutions to Lee's school situation. However, DeVarennes conceded that "it could be tight some years" if the wing is built. The wing plans were based on the number of "live bodies" in the town, and DeVarennes said any sudden growth in the town's school-age population could seriously overcrowd the wing.

— The town's outlying schools at East Lee, South Lee, Bradley Street and the old St. Mary's School will be closed under either school plan.

— The article for the new school at the March 25 town meeting cannot be worded so that final approval is contingent on state aid. Town meeting representatives, therefore, will have to vote the entire $6.5 million package without any indication of whether the town will be able to receive state reimbursement. If the middle school is approved, but the state later refuses to grant aid, another town meeting to rescind the middle school approval will have to be called.

— The vote on the school will be done by town meeting represensatives, and not on a town-wide referendum vote. The only way residents can express their opionion is by contacting their town meeting representatives or by starting a referendum vote if they do not like the result of the town meeting. A move for a referendum vote is started by petitioning the Selectmen. If two-thirds of the voters say in the referendum vote that they disapprove of the town meeting vote, then the town meeting representatives must vote again on the issue. The representatives do not have to reverse their original decision.

— The widening of Maple Street, if that becomes necessary if a new school is built, will not be included as part of the school plan, DeVarennes said. "We think the road is safe and wide enough now. If the town thinks differently later on, it should be a sidewalk, not a school, project," he explained. The estimated cost of such a project is $145,000, according to the Capital Outlay Committee.

— Busing will not cost more if a new middle school is built than it does now, according to Henry G. Greiner, chairman of the School Committee. Greiner also pointed out that double sessions had increased the cost of pupil transportation by $55,000 a year.

— The cost of extending water and sewer lines is included in the $4,024,580 the SBC says it will cost to build the middle school over 20 years if state aid is obtained.

— The Central School wings that are standing now are structurally sound, according to studies done by Pittsfield architect John H. Fisher. There is no way to know the life expectancy of the wings, DeVarennes said.

— There will be construction of a new wing while classes are in session at the Central School. "We will take every safety precaution possible," DeVarennes said.

— The SBC will not recommend either option, DeVarennes said. He explained that the SBC's role was to present the facts on both plans so that the representatives and voters could make up their own minds.

Lawyer backs Lee board on school 'meditation'

3-18-72

LEE — A legal opinion from the School Committee's attorney read at Tuesday night's meeting supports the committee's month-old decision not to have a minute of silent meditation at the start of each school day.

Stressing that his opinion was based on legal research and not on his personal beliefs, Pittsfield Atty. Arthur Stein wrote said he thought it would be wiser for the committee to wait until the state Supreme Court decides the school-prayer issue before taking any action.

State law now says that the school day should start with prayer or silent meditation. However, that statute has been challenged in court and a decision is expected shortly.

Violates amendment

"Most constitutional lawyers are of the opinion that the statute (mandating the minute of prayer) is, in fact, unconstitutional in that it violates the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States," Stein wrote. The First Amendment protects freedom of religious expression.

Stein's letter continued:

"I believe the wiser decision for the Lee School Committee to take at this time would be to adopt a wait-and-see attitude until such time as the Supreme Court renders its decision. In my opinion, no great harm will be done and I am not aware of any great public clamor for the implementation of this statute in the Lee School District."

James M. Graham introduced at the committee's Feb. 18 meeting a resolution to inject a minute of silent meditation into the first class of each day. The motion failed when the vote ended in a 3-3 tie.

The three committee members voting against the resolution — William F. Tyer, C. Marcel Brunell and Joseph P. Savery — argued that the constitutionality of school prayer was being tested and that the committee should await that decision. Graham, Chairman Henry G. Greiner and Marguerite Tristany voted for the resolution.

After the vote, Greiner said he would seek Stein's legal opinion on the issue.

Berkshire Eagle, Tuesday, March 16, 1976

town meeting voters polled

New school wing appears favored

enjamin L. Ginsberg

– An article approving truction of a wing at the School has a better of passing the March 25 eeting than does an ar- lling for a new Maple middle school, a survey meeting representatives ast week indicates.

survey of 43 of the 54 meeting representatives that 13 representatives to vote, or are leaning i voting, for the middle . 11 representatives plan te for the Central School and 19 representatives are ndecided.

her the article calling for ruction of the new middle ol or the article calling for truction of the wing must with a two-thirds majority use a bond issue is in- ed, according to the town ws. That means that if 43 resentatives vote, 28 must rove the article if it is to s.

he wing has a better chance passage because the majority the representatives who said y favored the new school to indicated they would vote the wing if their first choice defeated.

All of those who said they fa- red construction of the wing id they would not vote for the w school.

The overwhelming consensus f the representatives inter- iewed was that the town eeded a new school facility to eplace the demolished southern wing of the Central School. Grades 5-8 have been on double sessions since last May, when the wing was condemned.

The key to the March 25 decision will lie with the undecided representatives, who make up 40 per cent of those interviewed. Most of those in the undecided category said they were waiting to poll their constituents before reaching a decision. Several town meeting districts have announced plans to hold public meetings before the March 25 vote.

Many of the undecided representatives stressed in interviews that it was their duty to represent their constitutents and therefore their vote would depend on public pressure.

The telephone survey was conducted on Tuesday through Friday of last week. Each representative was asked if he or she favored building the new school, the wing or either.

The interviews with the representatives also showed that:

— Most of those favoring the new middle school cited better education in explaining their choice. Most of those favoring the wing cited economic factors in explaining their preference.

— The uncertainty of receiving state aid was sited as a main impediment to approval of the Maple Street school.

— The educational problems and disadvantages of double sessions have led most representatives to conclude that one of the two options must be passed March 25.

— Every representative contacted said he or she hoped to be contacted by his constituents before the town meeting.

The question of which school option to choose is so complicated that representatives have studied the same facts and come to opposite conclusions.

For example, Stephen A. Cozzaglio, a District 4 representative and the vice principal of the Central School, said he is voting for the new middle school because "it meets the long-range needs of the town far more than the wing would."

Yet Charlotte P. Davis, a District 6 representative and the chairman of the town's Capital Outlay Committee, said she is voting for the wing.

"I have talked to most of the people in my district and it is split very closely," Mrs. Davis said. "You can come right down the line and vote as you wish. Personally, I'm for the wing because the children will get just as good an education with less cost to the taxpayer. The wing is the only option we can afford."

Some, like John E. Blache, a District 2 representative, are looking to the future in favoring the new middle school. "What we vote on March 25 may decide where our children are going. I'm concerned about the school facilities for all the children," Blache said.

Alfred F. Turner of District 2 said he is in favor of the middle school, but he is worried.

"My choice is definitely the new school, but I'm very apprehensive about getting aid from the state," Turner said.

Marion Greenleaf of District 3 conceded the town would have to rethink the school situation if state aid doesn't come through, but thinks the new school is really the town's only choice.

"The kids need the middle school," Mrs. Greenleaf said. "I'm for it all the way. I have kids in school and the situation is a nightmare now."

The most vociferous opponents of the middle school who said they would back the Central School wing, cited money in explaining their positions.

Elmer V. Forrest of District 1 said: "The way taxes are now, I have to vote for as little as possible. We have got to have a school, but I don't think people can afford that new school now."

Mayme Peltier, a Pleasant Street neighbor of new-school advocate Marion Greenleaf, said she would vote as she found her constituents thinking. She said that seemed to be for the wing.

"It's mostly financial. Most people can't afford the new school," Mrs. Peltier said.

Edward M. Briggs, a District 4 representative and the town's building inspector, said he wished the town could afford a new school, but that he would have to vote for the wing.

"If I thought we could get state aid for the new school I would vote for it," Briggs said. "But until we have proof that we can get state aid, I'll go with the wing."

The majority of the representatives said they hadn't made up their minds yet.

"On my next day off I'm going to take the voting list for my district and just canvass people," said District 5 representative Mary I. Serra. "I feel I owe it to them to talk to them before saying how I'll vote."

Others, such as District 2 representative Thomas Smith said he was "undecided" because there was a lot to think about. "Both the school and the proposed sewer cost so much money. I believe in quality education, but can we support all this?" Smith asked.

Some representatives were terse in their answers. "Come to the town meeting and you'll find out how I vote," District 5 representative Amerigo A. Baruzzi told a reporter.

Previous indications that some representatives would try to defeat both school options seems to have faded. For example, William E. Derrick, a District 6 representative and town assessor, said:

"If I had my choice I would take neither of the options. I see too many people come into the Assessors' office who are young and just trying to make a living and they have nothing now. I wonder what's going to happen to them. But I don't think we really have a choice anymore. We have to have some sort of middle school facility. I can't go with the middle school, so I guess I'll have to take the addition."

A breakdown of the representatives surveyed by district shows:

District 1: In favor of or leaning toward the construction of the school are Tyer, Henry G. Greiner, and V. Michael Sinacori. For the wing are Alan B. Corcoran and Forrest. Undecided are Richard J. Burns, Dooley and Elizabeth Leahy.

District 2: For the middle school are DeVarennes, Turner, Blache and John W. Philpott. Undecided are Smith, William E. Noonan, David S. Bravo and John J. Burns. James J. Bianco could not be reached.

District 3: For the middle school is Marion Greenleaf. For the wing are Rosemary Grady, Mayme Peltier and William N. Demos. Undecided are John B. Giarolo and Ottavio Biasin. Dominic B. Biasin is in Florida and could not be reached.

District 4: For the new school is Cozzaglio. For the wing are Briggs and Richard S. Ford. Undecided are Annette Gordon, William F. Powers and Frank P. Consolati. Joseph Valenti and Joseph DuPont could not be reached.

District 5: For the new school is Marguerite M. Tristany. For the wing are William B. Navin and Bernard A. Judware. Undecided are Mary I. Serra, Clyde A. Gleason, Baruzzi and Michael D. Scolforo. Frank Kelly is in Florida and Dolores Loring could not be reached.

District 6: For the new school are Janice Smith and John D. Glomb. For the wing are Mrs. Davis and Derrick. Undecided are James F. Nolan, Thomas Consolati, Nancy Tierney and Richard H. DuPont.

District 5 meeting

LEE — District 5 town meeting representatives will hold a public hearing Thursday night at 7:30 at the 332 West Park St. home of Mary I. Serra to discuss the town's two school options.

Mrs. Serra this morning urged all residents of District 5 to attend the meeting to express their views on whether to build a new middle school on Maple Street or a wing at the Central School.

A town meeting on the two options will be held on March 25.

Richard Gore Jr.

Lee student gets district Key Club post

LEE — Richard Gore Jr. of Fairview Street was installed as lieutenant governor of the Key Club for the Kiwanis district covering Berkshire County. He was installed at the district convention in Bedford, N.H., last month.

Gore is a junior at Lee High School and the son of Richard Gore, president of the Lee Kiwanis Club.

Key Club is the Kiwanis auxiliary for high-school students. There are Key Clubs at Lee and Monument Mountain high schools.

Lee High students Tim Gangell and Sally Lawrence were delegates to the convention, and Winnie Roosa, Julie Gore and Sheila Hughes were alternates. Faculty advisers Donald and Susan Murray accompanied the students.

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

Lee residents disagree on school options

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — Some of the more than 125 people at last night's public hearing on the town's two middle school options said they were for a new middle school, some said they were for the less expensive and smaller wing at the middle school, and others hinted they would start a drive to reject both options.

Town meeting representatives will vote on March 25 whether to build a 59,000-square-foot middle school on Maple Street that would cost $4,024,580 over 20 years if state aid is obtained or a 29,000-square-foot addition at the Central School that would cost $2,581,930 over 20 years, or neither.

Proponents of a new middle school based their arguments on their belief that a better education is available in the larger and newer school and on their belief that the town will grow so much within the next 20 years that a new wing would become overcrowded and obsolete.

Vera Callahan of Devon Road said: "If you build that wing you can't say you are doing the best for the children of this town. If you build the wing you are saying you don't really care about the children of this town.

"If you build that wing you are basing a decision on money and not on the quality of education we give our children," she said.

Francis D. Foley, chairman of the town's Planning Board, said: "There is great growth potential in the western part of town. We have gotten applications for 32 units within the past month and a half. I think it would be wise for the representatives to realize that it would be a really bad investment to put a wing on an existing building."

The problem of not being able to get any indication of Lee's chances of obtaining state aid for the new middle school was cited last night as a major objection to the new middle school. Town officials have said the new school cannot be built without state aid.

State officials told town officials at a meeting in Boston last week that they would be unable to give any indication of Lee's chances for aid until about 90 days after the budget for the next fiscal year is passed. That will probably not come before next August.

That means town meeting representatives will have to vote on March 25 without any commitment that the state will eventually provide reimbursement for the project. The new school would cost about $6.5 million without state aid.

Skepticism over the state's ability to provide aid was also cited as an argument against a new school.

Frank P. Consolati, the president of the Lee National Bank and a local real estate developer, said:

"I don't think we have a ghost of a chance getting aid from the state. The financial affairs of Massachusetts are bad. I don't see how anyone can vote to indebt the people of Lee for $4 million. That would make our fiscal situation worse than New York City's. I hate like heck to see us put a noose around the necks of the young people of this town."

But Consolati hinted he might also begin a drive to defeat both school proposals. He said he thought a wing could be less expensive than the one planned by the School Building Commission (SBC).

"I don't think we should approve the third floor of the wing, and maybe without the third floor we could eliminate the need for an elevator in that wing, too. I think we can do a better job for less money," Consolati said. The elevator would be installed to transport handicapped students and would cost $44,000.

He suggested that the third floor of the proposed wing instead be built as an addition to the high school.

SBC Chairman John E. DeVarennes immediately challenged Consolati, saying:

"The construction costs for a third floor at the Central School or an addition at the high school would be the same. In fact, it would probably be more expensive at the high school because we would then have to do site preparation at both places. In addition, if we built at the high school, we would have to expand all the core facilities (the gym, library and cafeteria) and that would cost us a lot of money. I don't see any point in moving the checkers around."

The other principal argument for building the wing instead of the middle school, voiced by several people last night, was the $1.4 million difference in cost between the two projects.

"Times have been rough. We really can't afford the new school," one person commented.

Foley injected the idea of postponing any school vote, arguing that the new wing was an unwise investment, but that town meeting representatives could not in good conscience vote for a new middle school without some knowledge of the town's chances of getting state aid.

Foley's idea did not receive any backing last night.

Several persons cited the double sessions that the town's 5th-8th graders have been attending since last May when the southern wing of the Central School was found structurally unsafe and condemned.

"The town's children in double sessions are being shortchanged right now," said Charlotte Davis of Laurel Street. "Our first priority must be those children."

Maritta Stratton, a SBC member, also cited the educational disadvantages, saying:

"I think the most important thing we can do is tell all the district representatives to vote for one of the proposals. It is obvious that one costs more than the other, and we all know you get what you pay for. But if you want to save money, the programs can be worked into the smaller option.

"I think we have to figure out what we can afford, and then do it," she said. "I think the best thing we can do is build a bicentennial school or a bicentennial wing for our children and as a tribute to all the people who have lived here."

Francis D. Foley
He favors delay in vote

Frank P. Consolati
Both options can be cheaper

Lee senior receives 4-year scholarship

4/29/76

LEE — E. Michael Silakowski, 17, a senior at Lee High School, was named a winner today of a four-year, college-sponsored National Merit Scholarship to the University of Maine at Orono.

Silakowski, who plans to major in zoology, is the only Berkshire County winner of one of the prestigious four-year scholarships and one of only 1,485 graduating high school seniors in the nation to receive one.

The amount of the scholarship awards is not disclosed by the National Merit Scholarship Corp. because different factors change the sums from one recipient to another. But, according to a corporation announcement, they range from $400 to $6,000 over the four college years.

Silakowski, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward M. Silakowski of Water Street in East Lee, has been active at school in environmental projects and plays baritone and tenor saxaphones in the high school band, the stage band and one other instrumental group.

He is also a member of the French Club and the school's Key Club.

Silakowski was one of 18 Berkshire County students to become National Merit semi-finalists last September and is the second to win any kind of merit scholarship award for the coming year.

The other was Margaret Underwood Field of Pittsfield, who was named a recipient last week of a National Merit $1,000, one-year scholarship.

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

Michael Silakowski

Only Berkshire winner

The corporation provides scholarships in three categories, corporate-sponsored four-year awards, the one-year $1,000 awards, and the four-year college-sponsored awards. The latter is the category in which Silakowski won.

Silakowski's parents, who have a married daughter older than their son, said Michael was pleased at receipt of the award. "But not quite as pleased as I was," his mother said.

Lee sets its school budget at record $2.18 million

LEE — The figure for the final cost of the Lee school budget for next year, which has varied by as much as $78,700 in the last two weeks, came to rest last night at $2,176,440.
$2,176,440.

That represents a $170,642, or about 8.5 per cent, increase over last year's budget.

The final figure was approved unanimously at last night's town meeting.

The reason for the fluctuation was school officials' misinterpretation of the amount of state reimbursement the town qualified for under the Chapter 766 special-education program.

Officials originally thought they would get no funds from the state this year. Then last week they thought the amount would be $78,700.

But School Committee Chairman Henry G. Greiner said last night that the town would receive $27,861 for its special-education reimbursement.

Stephen Hawkins

PUBLIC HEARING on Lee's middle school options brought more than 125 people to the Lee High School last night. The hearing was conducted by the School Building Commission, and chaired by John E. DeVarennes (standing behind the table at rear). Town meeting representatives will vote on the options March 25.

Benjamin Ginsberg

NEW WING of Lee High School will be constructed on this southern side of the building.

Lee, after eight- year argument, votes to build middle-school wing

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — Town-meeting representatives took just 40 minutes last night to end eight years of controversy as they overwhelmingly voted to build a 28,000-square-foot wing at the High Street Central School at a cost of $1,471,000 and defeated by a 2-1 margin plans to build a 59,000-square-foot Maple Street middle school.

The vote on the addition, which is $2.1 million cheaper and four classrooms smaller than the proposed new school, was 50-4.

Minutes before the vote on the wing, the representatives defeated 36-18 the new middle-school plan.

Last night's vote clears the way for construction of the three-story, nine-classroom facility on the site of the former southern wing of the Central School, which was condemned as structurally unsafe last May and demolished three months ago.

The new addition will house the town's 5th-8th graders, who have been on double sessions since last May. The wing's nine classrooms combined with the 8 now in the Central School, will give the town a total of 27 classrooms for the Kindergarten through 8th grade students.

According to a timetable prepared by the town's School Building Commission, the wing should be completed by November 1977, when the town's K-8th grade population is projected to be 758.

Construction may begin as early as next August, according to the timetable. Final plans by the Pittsfield architectural firm of Fisher, Barry & Chieko are slated for completion in August.

Discussion of the two options last night followed closely the lines of debate that have brewed here since 1968, when a town meeting first passed and then defeated plans for a $2.75 million middle school. That facility would have been larger than either of last nigh's options.

Pass up state aid

The perplexing nature of the school debate and the controversy it spawned could be seen last night in the votes of two representatives, Frank P. Consolati and his son, Thomas. The elder Consolati argued for the wing and against the new school, while the younger voted for the new school.

In rejecting the new school, representatives decided to pass up the chance to compete for about $1.6 million in state aid that would have cut the cost of the building to $2 million. A decision from the state would have come in three to six months. No state aid will be available for the wing.

Statements last night were similar to comments heard at a public meeting a month ago and in the six district public meetings held in the last 10 days. Proponents of the new school cited the facility as a better long-range solution to the town's educational needs. Opponents of the new school, who all voted for the wing, cited the town's shaky economic condition and their constituents' will against the new school in explaining their votes.

Typical was the exchange between Selectman Martin H. Deely and District 5 representative William B. Navin.

In an imploring statement, Deely said: "I don't think the wing is a good educational solution to our problems. Let's try and get state aid. We may have to pay a bit more to get the better school, but it seems a shame to walk away from a better school."

Navin, a retired employe of the Peter J. Schweitzer Division mills, told Deely, the president of the Lee Lime Corp.: "Deely will never have Navin's problem of paying his taxes. I don't think we can afford that new school. But we have a problem, so we should build the wing."

The only procedural question last night was raised by District 4 representative Joseph Valenti, who asked whether six school administrators and School Committee members should be allowed to vote because of possible conflict of interest. Moderator Henry M. Donahoe ruled there was no conflict of interest involved and they could vote.

6/2/1976

Clare Boulanger

W. Jeffrey Baker

Joann Yetz

Photos by Benjamin L. Ginsberg

Graduation is Saturday

Lee High names speakers

LEE — Lee High School has announced the three student speakers for its graduation ceremonies Saturday at 2 p.m. at Tanglewood. A total of 155 seniors will receive their diplomas at the ceremony.

The three speakers are Clare Boulanger, W. Jeffrey Baker and Joann Yetz.

Miss Boulanger is the daughter of Lee School Supt. and Mrs. Maurice J. Boulanger of Devon Road. She will attend the State University of New York at Plattsburgh next year. She will read an essay entitled "Who's on First?"

Baker is the son of Dr. and Mrs. William J. Baker of Fairview Street. He will attend Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H., in the fall. He will read an essay entitled "The Merits of a Public Education."

Miss Yetz is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell J. Yetz of Devon Road. She will attend Wellesley College next year. Her essay is titled "Toward an Insecure Future."

The invocation and the benediction Saturday will be given by the Rev. Walter E. Douglass, pastor of the Berkshire Hills Baptist Church in Lee.

Included in Saturday's program will be singing by the high school chorus, the presentation of the new members of the National Honor Society and the awarding of diplomas to the graduating seniors.

Other highlights of the week include the senior class picnic tomorrow and the Class Day awards assembly on Friday.

Class day awards presented in Lee

LEE — Winners in 20 categories of scholarships and awards were announced during Lee High School's class day ceremonies Friday for the senior class. There were 156 in the graduating class this year.

Principal Robert Lucy presented the awards after the traditional reading of the class prophecy, history and will and the announcement of class gifts.

The awards and the names of the winners are:

Rensselaer mathematics and science award, David Renaud; DAR Austonoog Chapter medal in history, Michael Sorrentino; Gregg medal and certificate in shorthand, Deborah Rocke; and French awards, Laurie Hood, Richard Lindsey, Jodi Boyne, Violet Arnspiger, Michele Dupont, Christopher Airoldi, Michael Desrosier, Kathy Wellspeak, Marilyn Szewczak, Debora Geiger, Jane Buratto, Martha Sullivan, Nancy Vecchia, Judy Monachina, Christine Lorette, Kathy Williams, Sue Baker, Laura Dall, Matt Glomb, Joanne Yetz, Clare Boulanger, Jean Zanetti, Sharon Lawrence and JoAnn Buffoni.

Typing III award, Deborah Rocke; advanced typing award, Beverly Turner; DAR Good Citizen certificate and medal, W. Jeffrey Baker; Ardelia Donnell memorial award, Brian Whitman; art awards, Karen Larson and Nancy Garner, and student government representative, Christopher Hodgkins.

William Ingegni received a $100 scholarship under the Massachusetts industrial arts fair awards and James Hornyak received a bicentennial medal in the same category. Wood shop awards went to Matt Withers, Eileen Whitaker and Hornyak. Metal shop awards went to Gary Richards, Steven Briggs and Paul Abbott. Drafting awards went to Tony Consolati, Glenn Van Orman and Donald Lovato. Elaine Rotondo, Janet Pompi and Matt Withers received certificates of merit.

The Allan Wurtzbach memorial award went to Paul Digrigoli and Gay Lowell; Latin awards, Joanne Yetz (senior), David Renaud (junior), Sharon Pannozzo (sophomore); National Mathematics Association of America award, Michael Silakowski; Massachusetts Association of Math Leagues certificate of merit, Srikant Misra; John Philip Sousa award, Joseph Buffis; junior achievement awards, Lee Russell and Angela Scapin; dictionary in memory of Miss Leda Stratton, Elizabeth Ducayet; and cheerleader awards, Debra LaDuke and Lorita Scapin.

Photos by Frank V. McCarthy

RECEPTION LINE is formed by Lee High gradu ates following ceremonies in Tanglewood Shed.

Lee High School graduates 156

LENOX — Under perfect weather, Lee High School graduated 156 seniors in ceremonies in the Shed at Tanglewood Saturday afternoon.

Following the ceremonies, the class, with the women clad in red robes and the men in blue, formed a receiving line on the lawn south of the Shed.

Graduation speakers were Clare Boulanger, whose topic was "Who's on First," Joanne Yetz, "Toward an Insecure Future," and W. Jeffrey Baker, "Merits of Public Education."

Robert Lucy, principal, presided and announced the recipients of $21,955 in awards, not including the several scholarships Lee High graduates will be receiving directly from colleges and universities they plan to attend. Lucy also presented Matthew Boyne his official letter of appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis.

LEE KIWANIS CLUB SCHOLARSHIP — Sharon Lawrence, $1,000; Joni Thomas, $400; Michael Furer, $400.

LEE LIME CORP. SCHOLARSHIP — Clare Boulanger, $880; Joanne Yetz, $800; Michael Passetto, $800.

CHRISTIAN HERTER SCHOLARSHIP — Richard Wade $10,000 (Angelina Scapin a Junior is recipient of the same).

ADAMS SUPER MARKET SCHOLARSHIPS — Laura Tatro, $500; Winifred Carty, $500.

MARCH OF DIMES SCHOLARSHIP — Edith Crandall, $500; Margaret Carty, $500.

ABNER RICE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP — Gayle Lowell, $350.

LEE BOOSTER CLUB (in memory of Raymond Dignard) — Jeff Messer, $200.

SCHOLARSHIP TO OUTSTANDING GIRL ATHLETE (in memory of Mrs. Attilio Barea) — Sharon Lawrence, $50.

EAST LEE CIVIC ASSOCIATION (in memory of Mrs. Cordnier and Mr. Gage) — Kathy Garrity, $100.

LEE THEATRE PLAYERS (in memory of Cora Carrington) — John Toole, $25.

DENNIS FONTANA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP — Srikant Misra, $100.

MICHAEL WHALEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP — Sara Wilson, $100.

BRUCE STEVENSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP — Matthew Boyne, $100.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY, VFW — Robert Denley, $50.

ARTHUR DELSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP — Joseph Buffis, $50.

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Name in the News

5-5-76

Lee school board's new gadfly

Lee High School classmates of Joseph F. "Chee-Chee" Puleri remember him as a trustworthy but outspoken kid who had a loud mouth and was more interested in learning practical lessons than mastering academic ones.

The same Joe Puleri scored an unusual double election victory three weeks ago when he was elected on one day to a three-year term on the Lee School Committee and on the next day was re-elected to the presidency of the United Paperworkers International Union local at Eaton Paper Co. in Pittsfield.

And judging from the comments of his union colleagues and political backers, he was elected on the strength of those same traits he showed back in high school. His Eaton Paper coworkers see him as an outspoken guy who has learned the ropes. His Lee political backers trust he will continue to speak out and offer some hard questions about the School Committee's deliberations and the school system's operations.

* * * *

The week of May 17 was a big one for Puleri, now 42, a lifelong Lee resident and the son of Sicilian immigrants. (His father's name was Chico, hence young Joe's nickname.) He grew up with eight siblings, spent many of his boyhood hours in a wooden shack he made with friends on the ledge in back of the Central School, graduated from Lee High School where he starred in baseball, served for two years in the Army, and then got a job with Eaton.

While working as an offset pressman at Eaton for 21 years, he has risen to the presidency of the 600-member union, taken college courses at night, worked as an organizer and strike leader for the international union, and helped in the federal government's Office for Economic Opportunity antipoverty campaign.

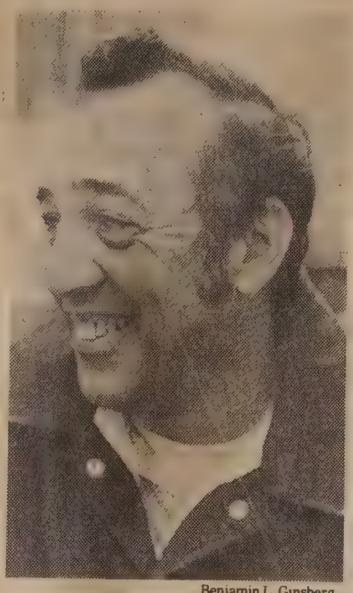
Puleri thinks his union experience working with people, his native's knowledge of Lee, and his recent experience with college education will make him a valuable addition to the School Committee.

He believes the education Lee students receive is "as good as any in the state," but he is critical, and outspoken, about the operations of the committee he was elected to.

* * * *

"I don't think there is enough discussion and detail given on issues before they are voted on. The general reaction of people in the town is that the committee makes too many quick decisions," Puleri said.

"For example, everybody is concerned about the budget, and the general feeling among the people is that they can't do anything about what the committee does. People feel the power of the School Committee is tremendous," he explains with a characteristic shrug.



Benjamin L. Ginsberg

Puleri: "I'm for the underdog."

Puleri has made his mark in his first two School Committee meetings by launching a barrage of questions. He has, for instance, questioned at length the routine reappointment of last year's summer school faculty. And he challenged the committee's retention of a lawyer for $4,000 a year, which has been the practice for the past four years.

While the questions no doubt are necessary for Puleri's understanding of the issues, some committee members irritably suggest that if he did his homework he would know the answers. His critics also suggest he is overacting the gadfly role for which he feels he was elected.

Puleri began working at Eaton in 1955 as an apprentice. By 1957, he says, he was a strong supporter of the effort that established the union at Eaton. By 1960 he was a union steward and in 1964 he became the chief shop steward. In 1966 he was elected president of the union, a post he's held ever since.

"Being head of the union is one of those things that gets in your blood," he says. "You don't really want to get out of it."

He says his big mouth is one of the reasons he originally decided to become a union officer. "I'm for the underdog. There are a lot of people who can't speak for themselves. That's who a union is for. And since I'm the way I am, I can speak for them."

He feels the biggest benefit he has gotten from his union activities is his education. "The first thing I said back in 1966 was that I wanted to be educated," he recalls. "I wanted knowledge."

The company gave him the time off, and he attended classes at the universities of Wisconsin and Massachusetts. He has recently completed a series of night courses on his own time at Berkshire Community College. He has taken courses ranging from labor relations to steward training to history to civil liberties.

His involvement in the leadership of the union has given him experience as a labor organizer, and he has successfully unionized plants and handled strikes in upstate New York and Solon, Maine.

He became involved with the Office of Economic Opportunity's antipoverty program five years ago at the behest of an old UMass professor of his. UMass received the federal grant money and sent Puleri to parts of Harlem in New York City and the ghettos of Hartford, Conn., to study the possibility of having unions help set up day-care centers.

While Puleri says he initially believed in the OEO program, his final analysis is less than positive. "It was a good idea that didn't work," he says. "The problem was that all the money ended up going to the wrong people. The administrators got plenty of money, but the poor people didn't."

* * * *

The area where Puleri's union education and political philosophy most clearly blend is in the area of public participation in decision-making and politics.

"There should be more general interest in politics," he says. "But the problem is that the common laborer has the impression he can't do anything; he feels he hasn't got a chance. That's what's wrong. The poor never vote, and the wealthy always do, so the wealthy make the decisions."

Puleri lives on Debra Avenue with his wife, the former Raffaela Cultrera of Pittsfield, whom he met at a General Electric Athletic Association dance in 1955. They have been married for 20 years and have three children.

Chee-Chee Puleri, the kid with the big mouth, is now doing his share of participating. He says he is not worried about having enough time for his golf or bowling. Nor is he worried about his mouth holding out.

His one concern is that another part of his anatomy may not fare as well during all those long meetings.

Lee school board reverses vote, gives Miss Maish coaching post

Eagle 7/27/76

By Mark C. Miller

LEE — Sally Maish is going to coach girls' varsity basketball at Lee High School for a fifth year after all.

Reversing a previous decision, the Lee School Committee voted last night to reappoint the 26-year-old Springfield College graduate to the coaching position, which will pay $1,200. In past seasons, it has paid $500.

The reversal, spurred by a grudgingly worded Conference Committee report, will end a grievance filed by Miss Maish, who was supported by the Lee Education Association (LEA) and a number of girls and their parents.

"If they have reconsidered me and I got the job, then that's the end of it," she said this morning when contacted by The Eagle at a summer camp in Scituate, where she is employed for the summer.

Describing herself as "very happy" about the outcome of the two-month battle, she said, "I think I'm going to have to write quite a few letters to quite a few people to thank them for their help."

She declined to speculate why she was rejected by the committee in May at the recommendation of the school's administration.

"There are so many reasons why they could have," she said. "But I don't know."

Third step

The Conference Committee, which prevailed last night, was the third step in a five-step grievance procedure being followed by Miss Maish and the LEA. The conference committee is made up of members of the School Committee and the LEA.

Before voting unanimously on the Maish appointment, the School Committee had to vote—also unanimously—to rescind its May vote to appoint the high school's guidance director, William Bourdon, coach of the girls' varsity basketball team.

In reaching its decision last night, the committee took the recommendation of a four-man administrative panel, which had originally pushed Bourdon for the $1,200 job. Members of the panel are Lee High School Principal Robert Lucy Jr., Vice Principal Henry T. Zukowski, Athletic Director John J. Consolati and School Superintendent Maurice J. Boulanger.

Miss Maish's grievance claimed that a teacher should be given preference over an administrator for a coaching position, a point that was conceded by the Conference Committee report on the matter.

To Miss Maish's contention that she was treated unfairly because she had held the coaching position with distinction for four years and lost it to someone else as soon as it was made a separate (and higher paying) position, the report replied, "The charge of unfair treatment is the opinion of Miss Maish and the LEA and is not necessarily borne out by the evidence."

The report also stated that Miss Maish's view of her qualifications "are her own and not necessarily those of the Administration."

Executive session preferred

Boulanger refused to give any reasons for the change in the recommendation by the three others and himself so that the four now endorse Miss Maish. He said the matter should have been discussed in executive session, without press or public in attendance, but Henry Greiner, chairman of the School Committee, reminded him that such a session would be illegal.

Zukowski was at the meeting earlier to discuss the high school's summer English make-up program, but was not asked about the coaching matter. He was on his first day of vacation and left the meeting before the Maish matter was brought up.

Miss Maish will also coach field hockey in the fall, as she has in past years. That job will pay $750, compared with $500 formerly. She will not, however, coach girls' softball in the spring, or junior varsity basketball, as she has previously.

Absentee rate

She speculated this morning that one reason the administrative panel had earlier recommended she be replaced by Bourdon as girls' varsity basketball coach may have been her absentee rate in previous years which she said were caused by her heavy coaching load. She said her absences from other school duties had declined last season.

Asked if another reason might have been that Bourdon was a man, she said she could not discount that factor but did not know how much emphasis to place on it.

Her varsity basketball teams have ended their seasons in second place each year for the last four.

"They've always been in contention for a small school," she said.

At the School Committee's July 6 meeting, a group of about 15 girls and mothers appeared to leave off a petition with the signatures of 25 girls supporting Miss Maish.

4-1-76

Foxhollow is placing students, teachers

By Susan M. Besaw

LENOX — Officials of Foxhollow School, which is closing this year after 46 years of operation, are working to place students in other schools and teachers in other jobs, headmaster Thomas P. Ryan said today.

Ryan said that every parent who calls is given the name of two schools for possible placement this fall. Parents of about 30 of the 48 students who were to attend Foxhollow this fall have made inquiries, he said. Other parents are making their own arrangements.

The five schools suggested are independent and considered small with 50 to 150 students, he said. Only one, the Hall School in Pittsfield, is co-educational.

Another private school, Wykham Rise in Washington, Conn., has a coordinated program with a nearby boys' school. The other schools are Stoneleigh Burnham School in Greenfield, Purnell School in Pottersville, N.J., and MacDuffie School in Springfield.

Ryan said that the director of admissions in the five schools have been asked to waive many of the admission procedures and accept the admissions folder compiled by Foxhollow. In some instances, the schools have agreed to waive the interview with the student. The parents will only have to complete a new application, Ryan said.

"We're certain they can be admitted to one of those schools with information we are supplying," he added.

Ryan and other Foxhollow School officials have not been as successful in placing the eight faculty members, but many of the teachers are working on their own to secure new positions.

Only the school nurse, Mrs. Francis Walsh, and her husband, an art teacher, have already secured new jobs, Ryan said. The couple will be employed at Williston-Northampton School in Easthampton, where they worked before coming to Foxhollow.

Some of the other faculty members are arranging job interviews, he added.

Ryan said that he had "no idea" where he and his wife will go after leaving Foxhollow in eight to 12 weeks.

The maintenance and secretarial staff of four people will stay on at the 267-acre campus "indefinitely," Ryan said.

He confirmed that the trustees of Foxhollow School, Inc., have not yet decided what steps they will take to dispose of the land and buildings. Appraisals are being made of the assets, Ryan said, and some people are already looking at the property as prospective buyers.

The Mount, a 1902 mansion built by novelist Edith Wharton and her husband, Edward, was put up for sale by the trustees earlier this summer to raise money. No one has yet purchased the mansion and about 130 acres of surrounding land which are also up for sale.

Foxhollow School, which was founded in 1930 in Rhinebeck, N.Y., and moved here about nine years later, is closing because of inadequate enrollment combined with rising costs.

Foxhollow is the last of the schools that date back to the time when Lenox was a major center for private, secondary education. The other major private schools of that period — Cranwell, Lenox School and Windsor Mountain — have all closed within the past five years for reasons similar to those that are closing Foxhollow.

Controversial textbook on death, abortion adopted by Lee schools

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — A book which candidly discusses such controversial aspects of death as abortion, suicide, euthanasia, capital punishment and American funeral practices will be used in an elective 12th-grade psychology course, the School Committee decided last night.

"The Topics of Death" is the only textbook in recent memory the School Committee here has acted on. Decisions on textbooks are usually made by the school system's teachers and administrators, but the committee was asked to review this book because the administrators were "wary on the subjects discussed," Supt. Maurice J. Boulanger said last night.

Lee will become the only school system in Berkshire County to use the textbook, according to Thomas H. White, regional coordinator for the state Department of Education.

The book, which was published last spring, offers essays arguing opposing positions on the different topics. For example, the section on abortion includes essays from the Boston Women's Health Collective arguing for abortion, and from James P. Shannon, a former priest and frequent contributor to Catholic publications, arguing against abortion.

Two other Berkshire County high schools, Wahconah Regional High School in Dalton and Drury High School in North Adams, offer courses covering the subject of death and dying. However, both use textbooks other than the one discussed in Lee.

In Lee last night, the main objections to use of the book came from Selectmen Chairman Edward F. Murray and School Committee member James M. Graham.

"You should teach kids about living, not dying," Murray said.

"I object violently to things like this being taught in school. They should be taught in the home. The mention of 'suicide with dignity' is the most revolting thing I've heard," Murray said.

The 20-year-old Graham said he feared that reading the book might provide justification for a youth contemplating en-

Lee school board okays text
Continued on Page 19

Lee school board okays text on death

Frank V. McCarthy

BEFORE THE CRISIS in Lee's school-space needs, the Central School wing at the right made a not unpleasant 1962 picture on High Street. Razing of the wing made necessary by faults in the building, has put Grades 5-8 in the public schools on double sessions until a new middle school is built.

1-30-76
Eagle

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

EXPLAINING LEE'S position on the $33,993.93 Sea Venture's of New Jersey owes in back real estate taxes on the Lexia School is Town Counsel James P. Dohoney (in center with coat and tie). He is flanked by the town's Assessors, from left, John E. Loring, William Derrick, Dohoney, and John J. Nagle. President Richard E. Sitzer of the Lee Savings Bank, the holder of the Lexia School mortgage, sits with back to camera. Attending yesterday's meeting in the Lee Town Hall was Sea Ventures President Walter J. Cairnes.

Lexia tax-accord remains stalled

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

, LEE — An official of Sea Ventures, the non-profit New Jersey organization that owns the Lexia School, met with the town's Assessors yesterday but failed to reach an agreement on a revised tax valuation for the Summer Street property.

The meeting was held in an effort to reach a compromise on terms under which Sea Ventures would pay property taxes on the Lexia School land and buildings for 1974-1976. If the taxes are not paid by Feb. 5, the property reverts to the town.

Walter J. Cairnes

The total amount owed is $33,993.93. But Sea Ventures' President Walter J. Cairnes maintained yesterday that the property was overvalued and that the assessment, and therefore the tax bill, should be lowered. Cairnes was not accompanied by a lawyer at the meeting.

The Assessors said yesterday through Town Counsel James P. Dohoney that they would reduce the assessment on the property $100,000, from $313,000 to $213,000.

According to figures supplied by Tax Collector C. Marcel Brunell that would reduce the Sea Ventures tax bill for the 1974-1976 to $26,370.25.

But Cairnes told the Assessors that was still too much.

"I don't really have any comment on that figure at this time," Cairnes said. "The property has suffered severe damage from vandalism, water, and wind since we bought it. We can show that the property is worth much less than $213,000. We can't afford to pay that much."

Sea Ventures bought the Lexia School from Lexia School, Inc., which was owned by Phillip Feltman of Clifton, N.J., for $81,000 in November 1974. The mortage on the property was for $80,000.

The land was assessed at $313,000 when Sea Ventures bought it. It had been tax-exempt until January 1974, when Lexia School, Inc., stopped using the property as a school.

The mortage is now held by the Lee Savings Bank. Bank officials attending yesterday's meeting were Richard E. Sitzer, president; Charles G. Tacy, vice president, and Henry M. Donahoe, the bank's attorney.

One of the major problems involved in reaching a compromise on the tax payment is that Sea Ventures thought until last October that it was exempt from the taxes.

Cairnes said he had sent town officials notice that Sea Ventures was exempt from federal taxes.

"But we thought, mistakenly, that that would mean we were exempt from state and town taxes. We went about getting the exemption the wrong way. What we did wrong was of a technical, legal nature. We gave the town insufficient information. I'm sure we will work this out in the future, but that doesn't help us now," Cairnes said.

Sea Ventures is liable for $21,314.70 in 1974 and 1975 real estate taxes owed by Lexia School, Inc. Sea Ventures also owes $12,676.50 in taxes for the 1976 fiscal year.

Cairnes said Sea Ventures has been trying to sell the property since November, but has been unsuccessful. He said part of the reason for the failure to sell the property is the high assessment.

If the town does not receive the tax money by Feb. 5, the town treasurer will hold the property for a two-year period. If the taxes, plus interest, are paid in that time, the property will return to the Sea Ventures.

If the taxes are not paid during the two years, the land will be sold at a public auction. The town can then take the money it is owed, and the rest of the money is given to Sea Ventures.

Bank ponders Lexia foreclosure

Eagle 2-7-76

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — Lee Savings Bank officials have not yet decided whether or not to foreclose on the mortgage for the Lexia School held by Sea Ventures, the nonprofit New Jersey group.

Sea Ventures' mortgage went into default Thursday when the bank paid $24,358.50 in back real estate and property taxes Sea Ventures owed on the Summer Street property.

The bank paid the back taxes, thus retaining its mortgage as the primary lien on the property. If the town had not received the tax money yesterday, its tax bill would have been the primary lien and the bank's mortgage would have become a secondary lien.

"We don't like having secondary liens," bank President Richard E. Sitzer said Thursday.

The bank's decision to pay the taxes means Sea Ventures owes the bank the $24,358.50 in back taxes plus the value of the mortgage, which sources have put at about $55,000.

Sea Ventures bought the Lexia School from Lexia School, Inc., for $81,000 in November 1974.

If neither the bank nor Sea Ventures had paid the taxes Thursday, the land would have reverted to the town. If the taxes were not paid within two years, the town would have publicly auctioned off the property.

The town would have then received the taxes owed it by Sea Ventures. The rest of the money from the sale would have gone to Sea Ventures. The bank, with its mortgage as second lien, would have then received at least a portion of the mortgage money owed it.

Sea Ventures has been trying since last November to sell the school.

Sitzer said the bank's decision to pay the taxes owed on the school was based on the present real estate market, which he characterized as "shaky," and the continuing deterioration of the buildings on the property.

"We figured it was best to cut our losses early in the game," Sitzer said. "The real problem with that property is that its only use is as a school with the gymnasium and the dormitories on it."

Both officials of Sea Ventures and the bank said they hoped a solution could be worked out so that the bank does not have to foreclose on the property.

"We hope we can get the property back," Walter J. Cairnes, the director of Sea Ventures, said in a telephone interview yesterday.

"We will try to work something out with the bank within the next few months," Cairnes said. "Our problem was that it was impossible to raise the necessary amount of money with the few weeks that we had."

The town's effort to get $33,993.93 in 1974-76 real estate and property taxes began Jan. 9 when Tax Collector C. Marcel Brunell filed a notice of tax taking.

According to the notice of tax taking, money owed on the property included:

— $1,282.70 in real estate taxes for 1974-76 owed by Lexia School, Inc., on a house and shed on Prospect Street which is part of the school property.

— $20,032 in real estate taxes on 35 acres of land on Summer Street owed also by the Lexia School, Inc., for 1974-76.

— $12,676.50 owed by Sea Ventures for 1976 real estate taxes on the 35-acre property.

The school was exempt until late 1973. The property was put back on the tax rolls at the instigation of Assessor John E. Loring after the property ceased to be used as a school.

Sea Ventures, as the owner of record, is responsible for the taxes owed by the Lexia School, Inc.

Under the agreement reached Thursday by the bank and the town, the valuation on the property was reduced from $313,000 to $213,000 because of the deterioration of the buildings. That reduced the taxes owed on the property from $33,993.93 to $24,358.50.

The bank Thursday paid $11,152.50 and agreed to pay the balance by Aug. 1. It was not clear yesterday whether the bank would also pay the interest that had accumulated on the unpaid taxes.

The Lexia School is a nonprofit group headquartered in Toms River, N.J., which sponsors fresh air activities for under privileged children. It is affiliated with the National Park Service and receives its funding through the federal government, donations and fund-raising drives.

Eagle 4/21/76

Lee school to offer Spanish

LEE — The School Committee last night voted unanimously to institute a one-year experimental after-school Spanish program beginning next year at Lee High School. A teacher will be hired to teach the language program Monday through Friday from 2:20 p.m. to 3:05 p.m. The committee agreed that if the program is a success, they will consider implementing it during the regular school day after the first year.

The proposal to institute the program was made at last night's meeting by Supt. Maurice J. Boulanger.

Henry T. Zukowski, assistant principal at the high school, said the administration had looked into the possibility of a collaborative program with Lenox Memorial High School, but he said that program is already filled to the maximum.

2-3-76 Eagle

Tyer rules out candidacy for school seat election

LEE — William F. Tyer Jr., a member of the School Committee for the past six years, yesterday became the second member of the School Committee to announce he will not seek re-election in May. C. Marcel Brunell said Monday he would not seek re-election.

The 51-year-old Tyer is best known for his leading role in establishing the Southern Berkshire Occupational Education Collaborative and for his passionate arguments for building a new Lee Middle School rather than a smaller Central School wing.

Tyer explained his reasons for not seeking re-election in a letter to School Committee Chairman Henry G. Greiner.

"Having served on various town boards for nearly 20 years, the time has come to encourage others to participate in town government," Tyer's letter said.

"I have found the past six years as a member of the Lee School Committee the most satisfying experience, and at times the most difficult, of any that I have attempted," the letter said.

Stating that education should enjoy a top priority in Lee, Tyer also said he was disappointed that more residents "haven't become more closely involved in setting our educational goals and carrying out these objections."

Tyer served as chairman of the committee for three of his six years as a member.

Prior to the School Committee, he served for five years on the Sewer Commission and for six years on the Water Commission.

Employed by the New England Telephone Co., Tyer is a Lee native. He and his wife, the former Frances Tuohy of Pittsfield, have six children. They reside on East Center Street.

South Lee home damaged by fire

LEE — A blaze which spread from a fireplace to an outside wall caused an estimated $3,000 damage to a South Lee home at the intersection of Route 102 and Willow Street near the Hurlbut mill about 11:45 last night.

James Burns, the owner of the house, was the only one home at the time of the fire. He was not injured.

The Lee Fire Department sent four pieces of equipment to the scene. The fire was declared under control by 12:15 a.m.

3-20-76

Lee PTO asks support for middle school plan

LEE — The Lee Parents'-Teachers' Organization (PTO) has sent a letter home with all Central School students urging parents to call their town meeting representatives and ask them to support construction of a new middle school.

The letter explains that the PTO and the teachers' union, the Lee Education Association (LEA), are supporting the new school over a Central School wing as what "is needed now for our town and for years to come."

Town meeting representatives will decide next Thursday whether to build the 59,000-square-foot middle school or the 29,000-square-foot wing.

"Educationally, the PTO and teachers are backing a middle school for the future," the letter says. "This generation needs your support and your representative needs your opinion to cast a sincere vote in this town meeting."

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Eagle Mar. 26, 1976

Support for new Lee school was strongest in District 2

LEE — Town meeting representatives last night defeated by a vote of 36-18 an article raising $3.6 million for a new middle school, and then passed, 50-4, an article raising $1,471,000 to build an addition at the Central School on High Street.

A district-by-district look at the vote shows that the new middle school had the strongest support in District 2 (the east-center section of town), which voted 6-3 for the new school.

Other support for the new school came in District 1 (the northeastern part of town) which voted 4-4 on the new school article. District 6 (northern and western sections) gave three of its nine votes to the new school article.

District 4 (southern and western sections) gave two of nine votes to the new school article. District 3 (southeastern sections) gave one of seven votes to the new school, and District 5 (center of town) gave one of eight votes to the new school.

The four votes against the wing came from two District 1 representatives and two District 2 representatives. All four had voted for the new middle school.

The following representatives voted for the new middle school:

District 1: Richard J. Burns, William F. Tyer Jr., V. Michael Sinacori, and Henry Greiner.

District 2: John W. Philpott, Thomas Smith, William E. Noonan, Alfred F. Turner, John E. DeVarennes, and John J. Burns.

District 3: Marion Greenleaf.

District 4: Stephen A. Cozzaglio and M. Bruce Callahan.

District 5: Marguerite M. Tristany.

District 6: Janice Smith, John D. Glomb and Thomas Consolati.

At Large: Martin H. Deely.

Representatives voting against the new middle school were:

District 1: Alan B. Corcoran, Arthur C. Dooley, Elizabeth M. Leahy, and Elmer V. Forrest.

District 2: James J. Bianco, David S. Bravo, and John E. Blache.

District 3: John B. Giarolo, Mayme Peltier, Ottavio J. Biasin, William N. Demos, James B. Powers, and Rosemary Grady.

District 4: Edward M. Briggs, Richard S. Ford, Joseph Valenti, William F. Powers, Joseph DuPont, Frank P. Consolati, and Annette Gordon.

District 5: Dolores Loring, Mary I. Serra, Clyde A. Gleason, Amerigo A. Baruzzi, Bernard A. Judware, Michael D. Scolforo, and William B. Navin.

District 6: Charlotte P. Davis, William Derrick, Nancy Tierney, Richard H. DuPont, James F. Nolan, and John T. Kelly.

At Large: Joseph J. Castronova, Edward F. Murray and Beverly Y. Foley.

The four repesentatives voting against the Central School wing were Tyer and Sinacori of District 1, and Philpott and Burns of District 2.

Absent from last night's meeting were Dominic A. Biasin of District 3 and Frank Kelly of District 5.

Lee school supt. backs Maple St. site for building

3/8/76

LEE — School Supt. Maurice J. Boulanger has joined the School Committee, the teachers' union and the Parents Teachers Organization in endorsing the construction of a new Maple Street middle school rather than a new Central School wing.

Boulanger said in a statement released last week that "the educational specifications for this building (the new middle school) were specifically developed to properly house an on-going 5th through 8th grade educational program."

The statement, prepared at the request of School Committee member William F. Tyer, continued:

"Not only educationally is the middle school a better proposal, but it will eliminate future problems of housing our youngsters."

However, Boulanger said that if town meeting representatives vote down the new middle school at the March 25 town meeting, he would favor building the wing.

"When you're drowning, you grab at straws," Boulanger said of the wing option. "But neither educationally nor as a taxpayer do I feel that the wing is the best bargain for the town."

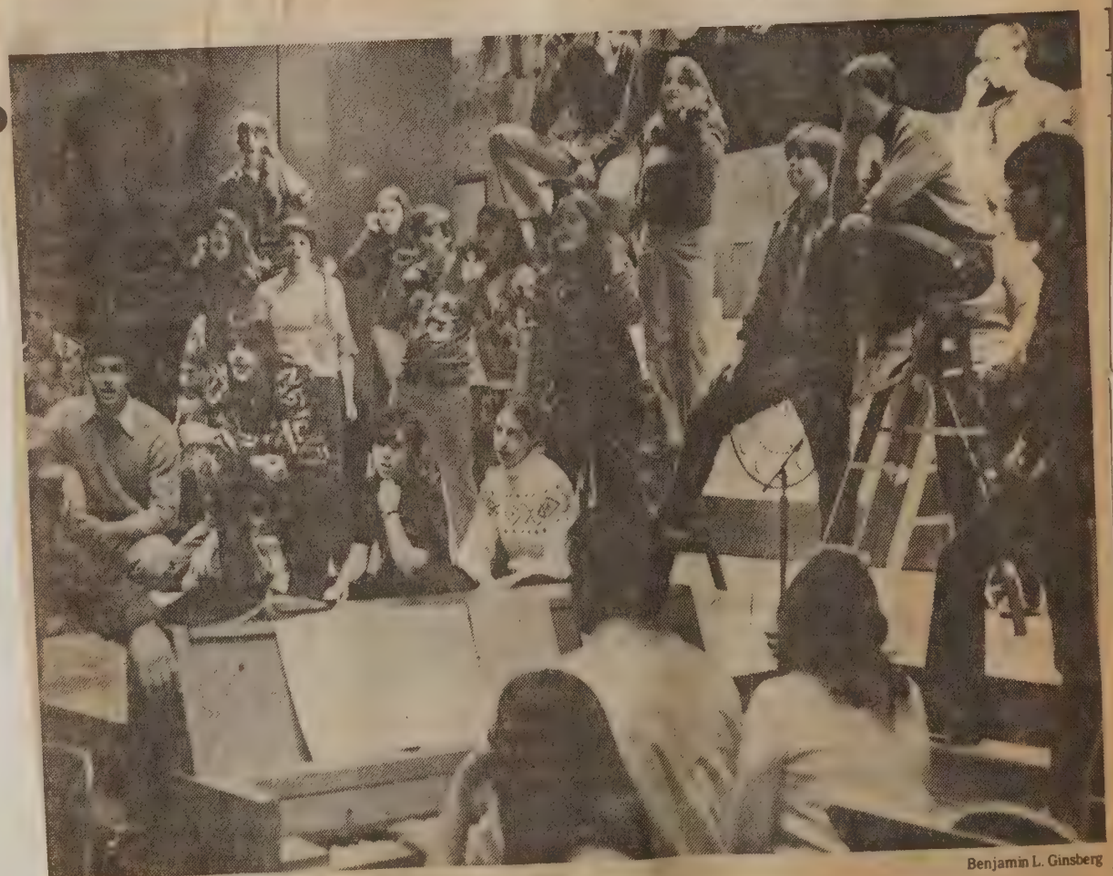
Characterizing the wing as "a minimum building program," Boulanger said the addition to the Central School would mean overcrowded classrooms for at least a year. He added that there would be "no room for expansion, if the need arises" at the Central School.

Boulanger also criticized the Central School wing because "historically school buildings are made to last 50 or more years. The option is committing generations- to-come to a building situated on an already questionable lot size."

In contrast, Boulanger said the Maple Street middle school could be expanded easily if pupil enrollments increase unexpectedly in the future.

The March 25 town meeting will decide whether the town will build a 59,000-square-foot Maple Street school at a 20-year cost of $4,024,580 or a 29,000-square-foot Central School wing at a 20-year cost of $2,581,930.

3/31/76 Eagle



Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE HIGH School thespians rehearse "Bye, Bye Birdie," musical which they will stage April 8-10 at 8 p.m. at the school. The leading players, shown kneeling in front, are from left, Joseph Buffis, John Toole, Martha Sullivan and Bonnie Dingman. The play is directed by William Polidoro and the music by Charles DiNunzio and Larry Porter of the Lee faculty.

Lee officials seek U.S. funds for library, sewers

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — Town meeting representatives will be asked to take a $27,000 gamble that the town will be able to get federal and state grants for more than $770,000 worth of work. The meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Nov. 4.

The $27,000 is seed money necessary to draw up plans for grant applications for an addition to the Lee Library and the completion of sewer plans for all town streets that do not now have town sewers.

Town officials said last night that $7,000 was needed to complete plans for a new Lee Library wing. The total cost of the project is $600,000 and the town hopes to get that money from the Public Works Employment Act that the Congress passed over a presidential veto last week.

$170,000 for sewers

If the representatives pass a $20,000 appropriation, then the town stands to get $170,000 it needs to complete the sewer plans. A combined state and federal clean water act project would provide the money. The Department of Public Works said the town would not build the actual sewer lines until public funds becomes available for the work.

DPW Supt. J. Peter Scolforo pointed out to the Selectmen last night that the town would need the plans eventually, and that it made good sense to try and have them done now.

The town must have completed plans for the library before it can apply for the federal funds. A stipulation of the grant is that bids be able to go out within 30 days of the approval of the project. The town would probably receive word on the project by next spring.

Plans drawn in 1968

Lenox architect Norman G.A. Day drew up plans for a library addition in 1968. Those plans would have to be updated. The 1968 plans call for a 40- by 80-foot, two-story addition to be located on the northern side of the present library, where a parking lot now is. The longer side of the structure would be at a right angle to Main Street.

The 1968 plans would allow the library to have 30,000 more volumes than the 19,000 it now has. The new addition would also have a 15-by 20-foot outdoor reading deck, a children's book section, a periodical reading room and a 1,200-square-foot lecture hall that would seat about 100 people.

The cost of the addition in 1968 was estimated at $325,000. A town meeting in that year turned down the appropriation request.

The warrant for the town meeting is expected to be completed next week. Other articles likely to be on the warrant are:

— An article submitted by petition asks the end of representative town meetings and a return to open town meetings. The petition drive was launched by the East Lee Civic Association. James M. Graham, who is coordinating the drive, said that he expected the article to be defeated by the town meeting representatives. He said a referendum question would be put on the ballot at town elections next May.

— Two Planning Board-sponsored articles. The first regulates the type of business that may be conducted in a home in a residentially-zoned neighborhood. The second asks for fences around swimming pools.

— An article authorizing the town to use $26,406 from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development to renovate the interior of the Railroad Street office building. Official approval of the grant by HUD is expected later this month.

— An article asking the town to accept Hartwood Drive, which is the road through a new housing development being built off East Street by John S. Booke. Booke told town officials last night that the road will be completed by the town meeting. Scolforo said Booke was building the road to town specifications.

Ralph E. Brown

LEE LIBRARY on Main Street is eligible for $600,000 in federal money. The funds would be used to build a new wing on the northern side of the building.

Dalton youth is participant

Lee group presses for siting new school on Maple Street

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — LETTS (Lee Education for Today's and Tomorrow's Students) last night pressed its drive for the construction of a new middle school on Maple Street and for more information on the availability of state school building money at meetings with the School Building Commission (SBC) and the School Committee.

One LETTS request — a meeting in Boston with state school officials and legislators — was answered when SBC Chairman John E. DeVarennes announced the tentative scheduling of such a meeting in Boston next Wednesday.

However, DeVarennes cautioned at least three times during an hour-long meeting with about 30 LETTS members that the town was unlikely to get a definitive word on the availability of state aid.

"How are school officials going to be able to tell us whether there will be any money available to aid in school building when Gov. (Michael S.) Dukakis hasn't even submitted an amount in the fiscal year budget for 1977?" DeVarennes asked.

SBC member John Loughlin said that the amount of state aid available to towns such as Lee would not be known until the Boston school situation is straightened out.

"Boston schools are under court order and will get the top priority," Loughlin said. The court order includes a lot of new school building in Boston. If the state has the same amount of money for school building next year as this year, $105 million, then all of it may have to go to Boston.

"They just won't know until the courts rule further on the legality of the current school plan," Loughlin said.

SBC members also referred to a letter they received late last month from Stephen E. Hart of the School Building Assistance Bureau.

The letter said that the town should not expect any indication on its chances for state aid for some time.

Hart wrote that even when all the town's plans for the new school were approved, it "could not be construed to mean that the Board of Education would be prepared to accept a formal application, nor could there be the implication that any action on the application concerning a grant-in-aid, could be anticipated at this point in time."

LETTS was formed about 10 days ago with the announced purpose of getting information on the chances of state aid for a middle school. The proposed new middle school would cost about $1,917,510 with 53 per cent aid from the state.

LETTS said it was concerned that town meeting representatives would not have any information before the vote on the town's chances of receiving state aid. The new school would cost $3,551,235 without state aid.

The representatives will be asked to choose between the new middle school and a new wing at the Central School that would cost $1,470,770, but would be 30,000-square-feet smaller.

The new facility will replace the demolished southern wing of the Central School.

Since its lobbying efforts began at the Jan. 26 Selectmen's meeting, LETTS has also announced its support of the new middle school.

"We think the new middle school is a better forward looking proposal," LETTS spokesman David Wells told both the School Committee and the SBC last night.

Terry Godwin, a LETTS leader, told a LETTS meeting before the discussions with the School Committee and the SBC that a town lobbying effort was very important.

"The most important thing we can do is talk to our neighbors," she said. "We should also be writing state legislators and telling them that we think we are entitled to state aid."

Mrs. Godwin said this morning her group had gotten encouragement from a statement made by School Committee Chairman Henry G. Greiner.

Greiner told of a meeting he had last fall with state officials who told him that Lee had "a high priority" for state aid because of the condemned building and the subsequent forced scheduling of double sessions.

Mrs. Godwin said LETTS would meet with town officials to decide whether LETTS representatives should attend next Wednesday's meeting in Boston with state officials.

She said members of her group would attend state General Assembly hearings in Boston Monday on various state education bills.

Lee vote on school set tentatively

LEE — The town-meeting vote to decide whether to build a new middle school on Maple Street or a wing at the Central School has been tentatively scheduled for March 18 at 7:30 at the Central School gymnasium.

The School Building Commission has also scheduled a public hearing on the final plans for the two proposals on Feb. 19 at 7:30 at the high school cafetorium.

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LETTS LEADER Terry Godwin listens to a question at last night's meeting at the Lee High School. LETTS (Lee Education for Today's and Tomorrow's Students) met last night with the School Building Commission and the School Committee. LETTS is lobbying for the construction of a new middle school on Maple Street and more information on state aid.

Lee school lobbyists to organize Tuesday

LEE — Lee Education for Today and Tomorrow Society (LETTS), a newly formed group of parents and teachers which is urging town officials to gather information on the possibilities of getting state aid for a new middle school, will hold its first organizational meeting Tuesday night at 7:30 at Room 47 at the Lee High School.

Cynthia Jenkins, a spokesman for LETTS, said the group plans to meet with the School Committee at its regular meeting Tuesday night at 7:30.

"We will meet with the School Committee to ask them questions about what they have done to find out whether state aid is available and whether we can get any of it," Mrs. Jenkins said.

Mrs. Jenkins said it was still too early to know how many members LETTS has. She said that some members of the group are starting a telephone calling campaign to enlist people in the group.

Although LETTS has stated its main purpose is to gather information on the availability of state aid, most members of the group are in favor of building a new 59,000-square-foot middle school on Maple Street rather than a 30,000-square-foot wing at the Central School.

"We are trying to find out about aid from the state for a middle school," she said.

Voters will decide in late February or March whether to build the middle school or the Central School wing to replace the demolished southern wing of the Central School.

The price tag on a new middle school is $3,551,235, but would cost taxpayers $1,917,510 if 53 per cent funding can be obtained from the state.

The new wing at the Central School would cost taxpayers $1,470,770. The state has indicated a new wing would not be eligible for state aid.

The state School Building Assistance Bureau (SBAB) has said it will not be able to tell town officials if state aid will be available for the new school.

LETTS told the Selectmen last Monday that voters should have some indication of state aid before voting on the two school proposals.

Lee parents, teachers organize coalition to deal with school issue

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — A newly formed coalition of parents and teachers last night urged the Selectmen to find out the town's chances of receiving state aid for a new middle school before a town meeting vote on two proposed options for school construction.

Lee Education for Today and Tomorrow Society (LETTS) said last night it is crucial to have information on the chances of acquiring state aid before town meeting representatives decide whether to build a new middle school on Maple Street or a new wing at the site of the Central School.

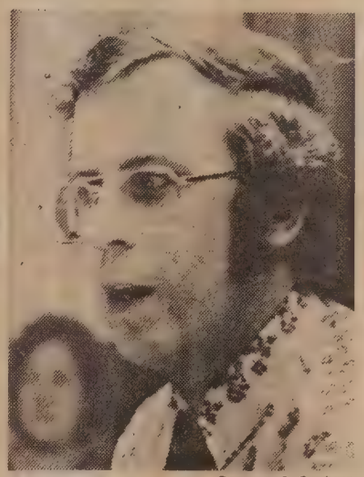
The town meeting vote has been tentatively scheduled for late February or early March.

The state said in a letter to the town last month that it would not be able to give the town any indication of its chances for aid until after a town meeting approved a new middle school plan.

A spokesman for LETTS said last night it was crucial to at least know if any state aid was available for new school building projects in the state.

"We are looking to the Selectmen to get an answer from the state on whether there is any money available," David Wells, a parent of a 6th grader and a teacher at the Central School, said.

"You have to get a position from the state and tell them we have a condemned building, are on double sessions and have a high priority for a new school. The town-meeting representatives should know whether we have a chance at state money before we vote on the school plans."



Benjamin L. Ginsberg

David Wells

Wells pointed out that the cost of a new 59,000-square-foot middle school with state aid was only about $500,000 more than a 30,000-square-foot wing at the Central School.

Selectman Edward F. Murray, the only selectman at last night's meeting, said the Selectmen planned to travel to Boston to talk with state officials on the chances of Lee's getting state aid. He said the meetings with state officials were being arranged by Rep. Dennis J. Duffin, D-Lenox, and Sen. John H. Fitzpatrick, R-Stockbridge.

Murray said that the Selectmen and members of the School Committee and School Building Commission would also travel to Boston.

"We'll go to Boston before the town meeting and we'll ask, but I wouldn't promise you a damn thing," Murray said.

"When you're dealing with the state you can't really expect a straight answer."

Seven members of LETTS attended last night's meeting. The group plans to hold an organizational meeting within the next week, according to Terry Godwin.

Mrs. Godwin said this morning that it is still too early to say how many members the group would have when organized.

Mrs. Godwin said the main purpose of the group is "to find out about state aid and to further discuss the educational differences between the two options."

Final finance-costs tabulated for Lee school-building options

LEE — A new middle school on Maple Street built with state aid will cost taxpayers $794,450 more over a 20-year period than a new wing at the Central School, according to the town meeting articles residents will be voting on March 18.

The final costs for the two middle school options include the principal and interest for the 20-year bond that will be used to finance either school building project.

All the figures previously released for the options were only for the immediate construction costs and did not include the cost of financing the projects.

The amounts that will be included in the town-meeting articles were prepared for the town's School Building Commission by the New England Merchants National Bank of Boston.

Those figures show that a new middle school on Maple Street will cost taxpayers $3,376,380 for the 20-year life of the bond. The immediate cost of building the school would be $1,917,510.

A new wing at the Central School would cost taxpayers $2,581,930 over the 20-year life of the bond. The actual cost of building the wing has been estimated at $1,470,770.

Voters will decide on March 18 which option to choose for replacing the demolished southern wing of the Central School.

The School Building Commission has also prepared projections showing the impact the options will have on the town's tax rate over the next 20 years.

According to the projections, a new middle school built with 53 per cent state aid would cost $5.41 per $1,000 of assessed value in the first year of a 20-year bond and a new wing would cost $3.43 in the first year.

After five years, the new school would cost $4.45 and the new wing would cost $2.92. After 10 years, the new school would cost $3.23 and the wing $2.41. After 15 years, the new school would cost $1.93 and the wing would cost $1.84.

In the last year of the bond, the cost of the new school would be 58 cents per $1,000 of assessed value and a new wing would cost $1.27 per $1,000 of assessed value.

New England Merchants National Bank based the impact on the tax rate on bonds bearing 7.5 per cent interest. The estimates were based on the present tax rate of $55,000 in town expenditures meaning $1 on the tax rate.

A public hearing on both options will be held on Feb. 19 at 7:30 at the high school cafetorium.

Lee, state officials postpone talks on school

LEE — A meeting between town officials and state officials on Lee's chances for school-building aid, originally scheduled for Wednesday, has been switched to Thursday at 11 in Boston.

Local officials making the trip will include members of the Board of Selectmen, the School Committee and the School Building Commission. Representatives of Lee Education for Today's and Tomorrow's Students (LETTS) are also expected to attend.

State officials expected to be at the meeting include local representatives to the state legislature and members of the School Building Assistance Bureau and the Department of Education.

The Lee officials will try to get a firm answer on the town's chances of getting state aid to help them build the new middle school.

State officials have in the past said it was impossible to give a definitive answer because the state budget for fiscal year 1977 has not been set by the governor and the state legislature.

Three teachers granted tenure in Lee Schools

4-10-75

LEE — The School Committee has decided to grant tenure to three teachers and rehire six non-tenured teachers for next year.

The three teachers rehired for their fourth year, and therefore automatically granted tenure are Christine Davis, Grade 6, Cynthia Smith, Grade 4, and Kathleen Hall, high school social studies.

Rehired were Carole Beaumont, elementary school French; Jean Faria, elementary school English; Estelle Graziola, high school French; William Chisholm Jr., high school guidance counselor, and Kimberly Meyer and Sheila McKeon, both high school special education teachers.

Construction At Lee School To Begin In Fall

4-1-76

LEE — The hue and cry surrounding the school issue here will soon be replaced by the sound of jackhammers. Groundbreaking for the new wing at the Central School is expected to begin in early September, while renovation of the existing Central School might take place this summer, according to School Building Commission chairman John DeVarennes. An occupancy date of September, 1977 has been slated for the new building.

At a special town meeting a week ago, town representatives overwhelmingly voted for a new $1.5 million wing to be built at Central School, rather than the proposed $3.6 million new middle school. The meeting was brief, mainly because most of the districts had held extensive meetings on the subjects. As a result, there was no stirring oratory on either side, but instead simple statements expressing mutual sentiments: 'It's darned hard to make ends meet today," one woman representative said.

Meanwhile, DeVarennes said yesterday that the "total final plan" for the new wing will be ready August 1. Construction will be put out and accepted that month. DeVarennes said he hopes that bids for the renovation can be put out by June, so that that aspect of the work may be performed during the summer vacation.

The SBC will meet Tuesday night at the high school, beginning at 7:30 p.m., with the project's architect, John Fisher, of the Pittsfield firm of Fisher, Barry, and Chiecko.

Frank V. McCarthy

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL coin club members boarded bus for Philadelphia this morning. Forty of the Lee school pupils and nine adults are making the two-day excursion.

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1-14-76 Eagle

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

DIRECTING the April production at Lee High School of the musical "Bye, Bye, Birdie" will be, from left, junior David Winn, Central School teacher William Polidoro, senior Christopher Hodgkins and sophomore Kate Collins. Production will be the first musical at the high school in three years and the second in its history.

Lee High to stage 'Bye, Bye, Birdie'

LEE — More than 50 Lee High School students are industriously planning and rehearsing for an April production of the musical "Bye, Bye, Birdie."

The last musical put on by a high school group was "Mame" three years ago. And before that, musicals were the exception and not the rule for the high school thespians.

But this year Principal Robert Lucy and Vice Principal Henry Zukowski decided that townspeople would rather see a musical than a straight dramatic presentation. It was a conviction shared also by William Polidoro, a junior high school English teacher who is the high school's dramatics adviser.

Lucy, Zukowski, Polidoro, and Marilyn Kirby, Charles DiNunzio and Larry Porter, all of the school system's music department, decided that a musical set in the greaser era of the 1950s would attract the most student interest.

"Bye, Bye, Birdie" is about an Elvis Presley-type character who is inducted into the U.S. Army.

The three student directors of the production — senior Christopher Hodgkins, junior David Winn and sophomore Kate Collins — agree that a musical, especially "Birdie," was a good choice.

"Doing a musical is such a good idea says Winn. "You can do so much more with a musical than a non-musical drama. And I really think the townspeople want a musical."

Miss Collins agrees: "Doing a musical is a good idea, and doing one with a lot of greaser characters is a better idea because it got a lot of people to try out who probably wouldn't have otherwise — like the jocks," she says.

More than 75 tried out for the play, and Polidoro says between 50 and 60 are still with it. Senior Joseph Buffis will play the male lead and freshman Martha Sullivan will play the female lead.

Rehearsals are proceeding at a twice-a-week pace. The actual staging and learning of lines is the easy part, say Polidoro and his student aides.

The major problems are constructing a set and adopting the musical score to the talents of the performers. The ideal solution to both problems would be lots of money to build an elaborate set and hire a professional arranger, according to Polidoro. That's something the production does not have.

"We'll work it out, but we do have problems," says Polidoro, who got his dramatic training in Pittsfield's Town Players and as a student at Berkshire Community College and UMass.

The materials for the set will be bought on credit, as soon as the setting is determined. The music teachers will work out the musical arrangements.

The dramatists had originally asked the School Committee for a $300 gift and a $500 loan. But now Polidoro and his assistants have decided they don't want any School Committee money.

"As soon as they give us money, they'll want some say in the production. We want to do it ourselves," explains Hodgkins, who made the original request to the School Committee.

In addition to the set, all the costumes, programs and royalties for the play will be bought on credit and repaid with the receipts from the play.

"That this production be a success is important for the future," says Polidoro. "If we can get something good going this year, it will be much easier next year and afterwards."

Now

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

FIRST PIECES of the steel frame of Lee's new middle school wing were put in place yesterday by the Schenectady, N.Y., Steel, Inc. The Central School is in the background. Photo looks north.

First steel in place for Lee school wing

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — The first pieces of the steel frame of the middle school wing of the Central School were put into place yesterday.

The steel work is being done by Schenectady, N.Y., Steel, Inc., and will cost about $125,000 by the time it is completed by the end of the year. The total cost of the wing is $1.47 million.

School Building Commission Chairman John E. DeVarennes told the Selectmen Monday night that the wing should be completed about six weeks before the opening of school next September. That means, DeVarennes said, that work is currently one month ahead of schedule.

One note of pessimism was injected into the Monday night discussion. Town Building Inspector Edward M. Briggs said that 36 new houses were built in town during the year which ended July 1. He said he has permits for three more houses.

That prompted Francis D. Foley Jr., who was at the meeting to announce a public hearing of the Growth Policy Committee which he heads, to remark:

"That wing was built to hold the number of 'live bodies' in the town last year. All those new homes mean there will be m ore children coming to that school. I certainly hope the Central School will be able to hold them all, or we'll never get those outlying schools closed."

The outlying schools are old structures at South Lee, East Lee and Bradley Park which were scheduled to be shut down when the new wing opens. The School Building Commission and other town officials promised that the outlying schools would be closed with the opening of the wing.

That promise was responsible for gaining support for a new wing, rather than for a more costly new middle school on Maple Street.

Other business

In other business involving the new wing Monday night, the Selectmen:

— Authorized a payment of $92,205 to George E. Emerson, Inc., the general contractor for the job.

— Were told by DeVarennes that the $6,600 cost of bearing electrical wires near the construction site was unexpected. DeVarennes said, however, that there was enough money to meet the unexpected expenditure.

— Said they would inquire about whether the town fire insurance policy also covered the construction site. The question had been raised by Emerson.

— Heard from Briggs, who is also clerk of the works for the wing, that work on Crossway Street would be completed by the end of the week. The road, which runs along the south side of the school, had to be torn up for electrical and plumbing work.

— Were told that a change in the construction schedule would allow Emerson to work on an outside stairwell of the school on Thursday, rather than over Christmas vacation. The stairwell has to be taken out, and Emerson will do the work Thursday when no children will be at the school because of Veterans Day.

Judge rejects complaint against Lee dog officer

LEE — A complaint will not be issued against town Dog Officer Francis Clark, Lee District Court Judge John J. Dwyer decided yesterday.

The show-cause hearing was requested by Susan M. Kelly of Pine Street, who charged Clark with "neglect of duties and inflicting unnecessary cruelty and suffering" against her dog. Mrs. Kelly's charge stemmed from an Aug. 3 incident in which she said that her dog had been struck by several cars at about 11 p.m.

Mrs. Kelly's complaint alleged that Clark picked [illegible] dog shortly thereafter, but it did not take it to a veterinarian until the next morning. The dog died two hours after reaching the doctor's office, the complaint said.

Judge Dwyer first heard the complaint at a show-cause hearing in court Friday. He took the case under advisement until yesterday, when he decided that Mrs. Kelly did not show sufficient evidence to warrant filing a criminal charge against Clark.

The judge [illegible]

Eagle 10/13/76

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Benjamin L. Ginsberg

Starting point

Lee's Middle School addition, scheduled for completion next September, is now only a hole in the ground. Supports for the new $1.5 million wing are in the center foreground. Contractor for the project is the George E. Emerson Construction Co. of Pittsfield. Photograph was taken from Central School.

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Consolati is appointed to Lee school coach job

LEE — Steven Consolati, the son of the Lee High School athletic director, Frank Consolati last night was named the school's junior varsity basketball coach.

Consolati's appointment was confirmed by a 4-2 vote of the School Committee, which at its meeting two weeks ago engaged in a heated 45-minute debate before deciding the job had not been properly advertised.

The committee's vote followed the recommendation of the school administrators. Athletic Director Consolati, who usually meets with the administrators to decide athletic appointments, disqualified himself from voting on his son's appointment.

The younger Consolati, who lives at 25 Circular Ave., was chosen for the job over eight other applicants.

He was the administrators' choice at the last committee meeting and Henry Zukowski, the vice principal, submitted Consolati's name three times despite three no votes by the committee. The administrators making the recommendation were Principal Robert Lucy, Supt. Maurice J. Boulanger and Zukowski.

Zukowski, who once served as an assistant football coach under the elder Consolati, served as the administrators' spokesman at both meetings.

Voting in favor of naming the younger Consolati to the post last night were Chairman Henry G. Greiner, Joseph P. Savery, Marguerite Tristany, and John H. Dolan.

Opposing the Consolati appointment were Joseph J. Puleri and James M. Graham.

The committee last night also named Susan Bowers the girls' basketball assistant to the varsity coach. Ms. Bowers was also appointed to the job at the last committee meeting. However, the appointment was rescinded when the committee decided that her position also had not been adequately advertised.

The committee also decided, based on the controversy over the Consolati appointment, that all three administrators and Athletic Director Consolati should interview applicants for coaching jobs.

The suggestion came after Puleri said he had a hard time evaluating the administrators' recommendation for the post because different administrators had interviewed different applicants. He said the procedure used to select the younger Consolati lacked a uniform analysis.

4/28/76 Eagle

Briggs named clerk of works at Lee school-building project

LEE — Edward M. Briggs of Fairview Street, the town's building inspector, has been named the clerk of the works for the $1,471,000 middle-school-wing construction project.

Briggs was chosen from among six men who applied for the job.

In making the announcement of Briggs' appointment, School Building Commission Chairman John E. DeVarennes said the job would pay $250-a-week with the expectation that the project would take 12 months to complete.

All town inspection work on the new middle school will be handled by Stockbridge Building Inspector Anthony Murad. Lee signed an agreement with Stockbridge earlier this year to have the inspector of one town substitute for the inspector of the other town in such situations. State Building Inspector James Goggins will also do inspection work at the site.

The Selectmen last night formally signed the contract for the job with the George E. Emerson Construction Co. of Pittsfield. Emerson has actually been working at the site for the past three weeks.

The board also authorized payment of $40,974 to the Joseph E. Francese Construction Co. of Pittsfield for the work it has completed on the renovations to the Central School. The board is withholding a final $4,000 payment pending a final inspection of the work this week by John H. Fisher, the architect for the project.

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

Edward M. Briggs

In other school news last night, DeVarennes told the Selectmen that a public hearing on the construction work progress scheduled for tomorrow night had been postponed. He said the meeting would be held after the final resolution of the heating and ventilating and elevator subcontracts.

Both of those subcontracts have been challenged by bidders. The state has ordered the town to rebid the heating and ventilating work and the low bidder, J. R. Lahey Jr. of Pittsfield, has indicated he will file suit.

A hearing on the elevator contract will be held Thursday in Boston before the state Department of Labor and Industries. A bidder who was disqualified on the grounds that he did not complete the bid forms has asked for the hearing. That hearing is expected to go in favor of the town because work on the elevator has already begun.

Lee school class plans reunion

LEE — The Lee High School class of 1956 is now accepting reservations to attend its 20th reunion on Oct. 9. The festivities will begin at 6:45 p.m. at the Morgan House.

The actual dinner will be preceeded by a class business meeting to decide on a class gift.

Initial reports are encouraging, according to Claudia E. Wells of Lenox, the class president, who said that graduates from as far away as South Carolina are planning to attend.

Reservations may be made with either Mrs. Wells of Lime Kiln Road or Eleanor B. Baumann, the class secretary, of Davis Street.

Adidas & All Star Sneakers. Jack's in Lee & Gt. Barr. — Adv.

Hudson Vitamin C 500 MG, 250 tablets, reg. $5.89. Now $4.09. Wheeler's Lee Pharmacy — Adv.

Lee school administrators get warning on proper attire

11/2/72

LEE — The School Committee last night discussed for 15 minutes the attire of the school system's administrators. The discussion started when member James M. Graham complained that he had recently seen an administrator at the school in a corduroy shirt.

Graham was urged by other committee members not to publicly name the administrator.

All members of the committee agreed, following Graham's revelation, that administrators should wear coats and ties while at school. The members agreed that tie and shirt sleeves was acceptable if in the middle of the work day.

Several committee members said they had always seen the administrators properly attired.

The committee said that it could not pass an official motion about the administrators' attire because of the contract. But the committee did tell Supt. Maurice J. Boulanger to mention at his next meeting with the administrators that proper attire was expected while working at the town's schools.

Included in the group are high school Principal Robert Lucy, Vice Principal Henry Zukowski, and Guidance Director William Bourdon, and Central School Principal Raymond Kavey, Vice Principal Stephen Cozzaglio and Guidance Director Warren Reynolds.

Other business

In other business last night, the committee:

—Voted to appropriate $1,100 from Public Law 874 funds to bring the Performing Artists Repertory Theatre to the Lee schools on Nov. 18. Florence Savery of Stockbridge Road made the suggestion. She said she had seen the group perform the week before at the Massachusetts Association of School Committees' meeting at Hyannis. She termed the group's performance "excellent." She accompanied her husband, Joseph P. Savery, to the meeting.

— Voted to ask for advice from Arthur Stein, the committee's attorney, and from the town and school accountants, on whether the school department's revolving funds are allowed to be placed in interest-bearing accounts. The committee got into the discussion on financial procedures after James M. Graham decried the use of bank passbooks in some of the school accounts. He said the use of the passbooks made it impossible to make an accurate assessment of the accounts.

— Received two letters on the purchase of coveralls for students in the high school house-building project. A letter from Mrs. Benjamin Slaminsky of Ben's in Lee protesting that they were not told of the purchase. The coveralls were purchased at Jack's in Lee, and Mrs. Slaminsky said her store could have given the School Department a better price. The committee promised to tell all local stores of any future purchases. The second letter came from Delores Loring, a town meeting representative, who said the cost of the clothes should be born by the house-building sponsor. The committee disagreed, saying that the coveralls were used from year to year and remained the property of the Lee schools.

— Named Alex Nardacci as the 7th grade class adviser replacing Estelle Grazziola, who resigned.

— Named Alan Toll as the 8th grade class adviser.

Cont. from Pg. 9C

Diplomas were presented by Maurice J. Boulanger, superintendent of schools as Lucy called graduates forward. Lucy was obliged to rely heavily on his ability to name each of the members of the graduating class since the order of diplomas did not agree entirely with the seating of the students. His memory proved remarkably good.

The invocation and benediction were given by the Rev. Walter Douglass, pastor of the Berkshire Hills Baptist Church. Lee High musicians under the direction of Charles O. DiNunzio formed a band for the processional and recessional.

The graduating class numbered one less than the record class of 157 who graduated two years ago.

The large number of parents attending filled a large portion of the cavernous shed.

Prizes and awards announced by Lucy were as follows:

OTIS PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION — Karen Larson, $300; Edith Crandall, $300.

LEE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (in memory of Arthur Welcome) — Arthur Wheeler, $200.

LEE LODGE SONS OF ITALY — Lorita Scapin, $200.

LEE HIGH STUDENT COUNCIL (in honor of James I. Brown) — Christopher Hodgkins, $100.

OTIS KIWANIS CLUB — Edith Crandall, $300; Debra Ryan, $300.

LEE BAND PARENTS — Mary Enser, $100; Michael O'Donnell, $100; Stephen Wilkinson, $100.

KIWANIS REGIONAL DISTRICT — Bruce Heath, $500.

LEE HIGH FRENCH CLUB — Joanne Buffoni, $75 bond; Joanne Yetz, $75 bond; Clare Boulanger, $50 bond; Sharon Lawrence, $50 bond.

LEE HIGH ART DEPARTMENT — Karen Larson, $50; Nancy Garner, $50.

EUGENIO BONAFIN MEMORIAL, Class of 1936 — Bruce Coleman, $50.

LEE HIGH DRAMA CLUB — Jeanne Zanetti, $100.

ARDELLA DONNELL MEMORIAL, Class of 1933 — Brian Whitman, $25.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY MEDICAL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY — Joanne Buffoni, $150; Edith Crandall, $150.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL ARTS ASSOCIATION — William Ingegni, $100.

LEE HIGH YEARBOOK SCHOLARSHIP — Michael O'Donnell, $200; Robert O'Donnell, $200.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP — Michael Silakowski.

ALEXANDER WALKER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP — Robert O'Donnell, $250.

LEE HIGH QUIZ TEAM — Patrick McCarthy, $150; W. Jeffrey Baker, $75; Albert Bravo, $75.

LEE GIRL SCOUT SCHOLARSHIP — Mary Enser, $30.

Lee High School graduates

Edward C. Abderhalden
Sharon Adams
Stephen M. Allen
Susan Elaine Andersen
John J. Augustyniak
William Jeffrey Baker
Kimberly Jean Bartini
Erik Paul Bedding
Gerard Joseph Blache
Rebecca Bliven
Cathy Ann Bona
Clare Louise Boulanger
Matthew John Boyne
Albert Andrew Bravo
Howard Brazee
Joseph H. Brazee
Joseph F. Buffis
Jo-Ann Buffoni
Vicki L. Burton
Brian A. Burtt
Debra Jean Caccamo
Cynthia Louise Carr
Margaret T. Carty
Michael E. Chapman
Lisa A. Chiorgno
Susan Cibelli
Bruce Edward Coleman
Kevin T. Collins
Matthew Steven Collins
Edith Laura Crandall
Irene G. Crandall
Lisa Ann Crawford
Michael Andrew Dadak
Cathleen M. De Freest
Robert E. Denley
Holly Anne Desmond
Norene M. DeVarennes
Paul Joseph DiGrigoli
Michael S. Dobson
David Douglass
Kathleen Sharon Driscoll
Michael F. Driscoll
Elizabeth Graham Ducayet
James D. Durett
Mary Peterette Enser
Joanne L. Fillio
James J. Fitzgerald
Michael A. Forbes
Kim Marie Fromma
Michael B. Furer
Robin Lynn Gagne
Debra Ann Gardner
Nancy Ellen Garner
Catherine A. Garrity
Maryann Louise Gop
Lynne M. Hallock
Jeffrey L. Harte
Bruce C. Heath
Marilyn Martin Heath
Stephen M. Hebert
Terence J. Hickey
Christopher Joseph Hodgkins
Joseph F. Hood
Myron Blair Hood
Joseph Kevin Hornyak
Robert B. Humeston
William B. Ingegni
Donald S. Inglis, Jr.
Robert W. JoeJoe
William L. Kearin
Eileen Alanna Kearney
Elizabeth Ann Kearney
Thomas G. Keenan
Valerie G. Kegler
Timothy Michael Koperek
Debra L. La Duke
Cheryl Ruth Lang
Karen Elizabeth Larson
Deborah Marie Laudon
Sharon Lynn Lawrence
Andre Le Blanc
Joseph Le Blanc
Marilyn A. Lockenwitz
Debrah Lynn Loring
James Arthur Loring
Gay Ann Lowell
Gayle Anthony Lowell
Kathleen E. Maroney
Patrick Anthony Mc Carthy
Jeff Messer
Srikant Misra
Guy Alan Morin
Peter Lee Mushroe
David A. Nelson
Donald Nelson
John F. Nickerson
Kathryn Anne Niedzienski
Jean Marie North
Michael Stephen O'Donnell
William R. O'Donnell III
Corinne Pascucci
Michael Passetto
Douglas Pering
Don J. Perry
Jon Michael Piacquadio
Robert J. Plankey
Colleen Elizabeth Pleu
Brenda Marie Plourde
Janet Elaine Pompi
John P. Poulin
Debra Jean Reynolds
Debbie Esther Rocke
Winifred Rose Roosa
David M. Rowley
Linda Marie Rowley
Debra Kay Ryan
Lorita Scapin
Theresa Marie Scapin
Brian E. Schaffer
Sharon Irene Senter
Nancy Patricia Shea
Edward Michael Silakowski
Jane Ellen Slaminsky
Patricia A. Somerville
Daniel B. Soules
Robin Joyner Stanton
Nena F. Stracuzzi
Cherylann Kingsley Tacy
Robert J. Tarmey
Laura Anne Tatro
Joni Marie Thomas
John Edmond Toole
Kathleen A. Toomey
Beverly Jane Turner
Catherine Anne Tyer
Daniel Timothy Unsderfer
Robert Douglas Wacker
Richard B. Wade
Frederic A. Warden III
Kathleen Anne Wells
Robert A. Whalen
Arthur Lee Wheeler
Jane E. Wheeler
Eileen Anne Whitaker
Brian K. Whitman
Glenn Michael Wilcox
Stephen Bradley Wilkinson
Carl Williams, Jr.
Connie Marie Williams
Glenn D. Wilson
Sara Jean Wilson
Debra L. Withers
Dorinda J. Withers
Joanne Marie Yetz
Jean Elizabeth Zanetti

LEE SENIOR Class President John Toole presents Nancy Houk, class adviser, with flowers from the class.

Arthur Capen retires today after 67 years as librarian

By Lois Ashe Brown

WORTHINGTON — Arthur G. Capen will check out his last book this afternoon, ending 67 years as librarian at the Frederick Sargeant Huntington Library here.

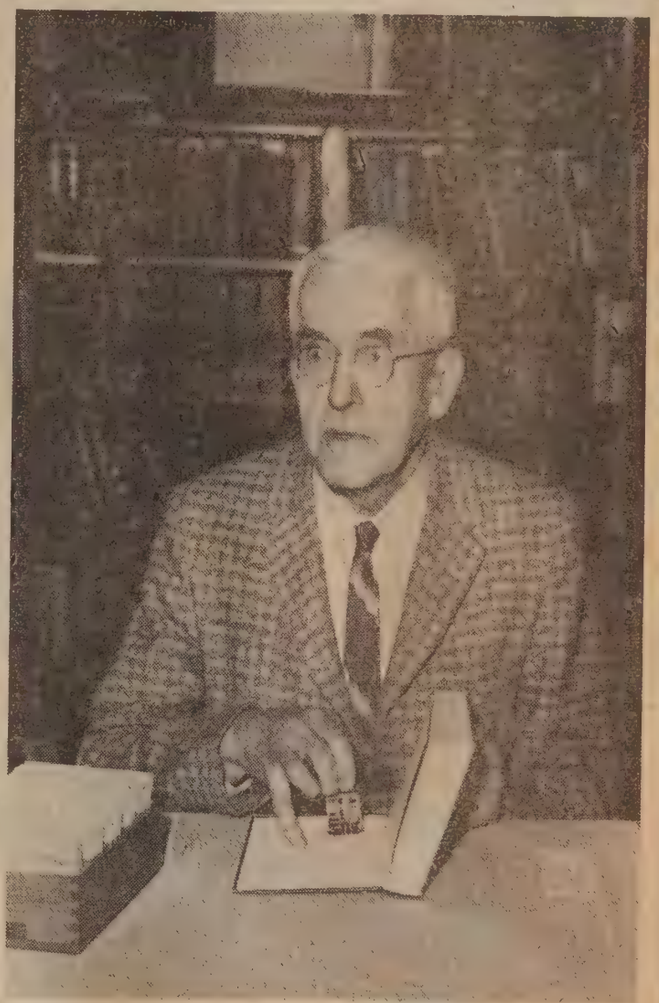
Near closing time, friends plan to honor him at a tea.

Long records are a way of life for Capen who is 94. As organist of the Worthington Congregational Church, he rolled up 60 years and was called back to substitute long after he formally retired from the position. As clerk of the Fire District, he put in 36 years collecting water rents. For 27 years he taught school and for 24 years he served on the Worthington School Committee, besides being chairman of the building committees for both the Russell H. Conwell School and, 10 years later, for its addition.

In 1904, he joined the Grange and is now its oldest charter member, besides holding membership in Hillside Pomona Grange and the State and National Granges.

For 21 years, he was the Worthington correspondent for The Berkshire Eagle. Always on the alert for news of local interest, he has kept such items posted at the library and in scrapbooks that now form a valuable source of reference.

Born on Dec. 4, 1881 in the house on Capen Street, owned by his family for 64 years, Arthur Capen has lived here most of his life except for a few years of teaching in Austin, Tex., and in Enfield, the Massachusetts town that was displaced by the Quabbin Reservoir. It was largely through his influence in Enfield that the Worthington library benefited richly in both money and books when the Enfield library was discontinued in preparation for the building of the reservoir.



Lois Ashe Brown

Arthur Capen will check out his last book this afternoon.

2/20/76

Lee library plans puppet show series

LEE — The puppet show "Peter Rabbit" will be presented next Monday through Thursday at the Lee Library. The show is for children in the 2nd grade or younger.

Admission to the show is free, but reservations are necessary. They can be made by telephoning the library.

Performances will be given on Monday and Tuesday at 10, 10:45 and 1:30; Wednesday at 10, 10:45, 1:30 and 3:30, and on Thursday at 10 and 10:45.

The theatre is named for the late Jane Cinella. The puppeteers are Mrs. Peter Cerruti, Mrs. Thomas Unsworth, Mrs. Thomas Cinella, Mrs. Kirby Ducayet, Mrs. M. James Shaw and Mrs. Thomas Unsworth.

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Ed Meier

TOWN LIBRARIAN Lucille Pell is presented a sketch of the Becket Center Church by Hubert Salvini, chairman of the town Bicentennial Committee. The sketch was drawn by Shelly Fink and presented to the town by the Southern Berkshire Arts Council. It will hang premanently at the Becket Library. Watching the ceremony are Becket Bicentennial Committee members, from the left, Joanne Mason, John H. Young, Nancy Keiper, Robert Feder, Florence Ryan, Susan Salvini, and Josephine Eames.

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Valuable books stolen in Lenox Library break

By Susan M. Besaw

LENOX — Thirteen books or other memorabilia termed "invaluable" were stolen from a glass display case in the main reading room of the Lenox Library early yesterday morning.

A fingerprint expert from the Northampton State Police yesterday dusted the case for fingerprints and reportedly found some. Whether they are the prints of the burglars, however, was unknown.

Among the items taken were eight first editions of books by Edith Wharton and Ogden Codman, Jonathan Edwards, Herman Melville, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Edna St. Vincent Millay and E.M. Forster.

Bicentennial exhibit

All of the authors, artists and architects represented in the library's bicentennial exhibit have a connection with the Berkshires.

The theft was discovered about 3:20 a.m. Monday morning by Lenox Police Officer Julian Fuore, who found a broken windowpane in the front of the building. Police Chief Anthony Romeo said that the thieves apparently could not unlock the latch on the window because it had been painted shut. Police believe entrance was gained by another window which had been broken on the south side of the building.

The display case, which held only a small part of the library's exhibit, had a small lock which had been pried open, Romeo said. Most of the paintings and other memorabilia were locked in an adjoining room.

The only exhibit item left in the case that was broken into was an old postcard of the Mount, Edith Wharton's estate located at what is now Foxhollow School.

The fingerprint expert, who was accompanied by Lenox Officer Lee N. Sample yesterday, took his evidence back to the Northampton lab for further examination. Romeo said that his force is still investigating the theft, which librarian Margaret Kennard said was the worst she could remember in the library's history in terms of the value of items taken.

First editions

Besides a pair of silver salts owned by Jonathan Edwards, all the items taken were books or journals. They included first editions of "Ethan Frome" by Edith Wharton, "Freedom of the Will" by Jonathan Edwards, "The Decoration of Houses" by Ms. Wharton and Ogden Codman, "Huntsman, What Quarry?" by Edna St. Vincent Millay, "Elsie Venner" by Oliver Wendell Holmes, "The Scarlet Letter" by Nathaniel Hawthorne, "White Jacket" by Herman Melville, and "Two Cheers for Democracy," a first American edition by E.M. Forster.

Other valuable books taken are a handwritten journal of William Henry Thayer, an edition of Melville's book "Typee," which belonged to his brother; an edition of Melville's "Moby-Dick" illustrated by Rockwell Kent, and an old edition of Hawthorne's "The House of the Seven Gables."

Except for "The Decoration of Houses," which is owned by the Lenox Library Association, all the items taken were from private collections.

Following this theft, the second at the library in two months, Mrs. Kennard said that the library will hire a security guard at least through the end of the exhibit, Sept. 4. After that, she said the library may consider installing electronic security devices.

End of era

She and Mrs. Viggo B. Rambusch, a member of the committee which set up the exhibit, said yesterday that such security measures would signify the end of an era at the library, which has allowed people to roam freely and openly without questioning.

"We've trusted everybody," Mrs. Kennard said. "We've been very naive that way."

Mark Mitchell

LENOX LIBRARIAN Margaret Kennard examines empty display case in the main reading room.

Seche photo

The Mason Library in Great Barrington has two new librarians. Dorey Cole, left, of Pittsfield, has been named head librarian, and Marlene Drew is the new children's librarian. Both women have degrees in library science, Ms. Cole, a master's and Ms. Drew a bachelor's degree.

Mason Library Appoints Two New Librarians

GT. BARRINGTON — Two staff appointments have been made at the Mason Library here. Dorey Cole, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Ben E. Cole Jr. of Pittsfield, has been named head librarian, and Marlene Drew, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Drew of Windsor, has been named children's librarian.

Ms. Cole received her undergraduate degree from Wheaton College and her masters of library science from the University of Rhode Island.

Ms. Drew received her undergraduate degree in library science from Southern Connecticut State College.

The Mason Library will begin its summer story hours for children July 13. Tuesday afternoons will be for pre-school and first grade children, and Thursday afternoons will be for children from grades two through four. The sessions will be held from 2:30 to 3 p.m. and will continue on each Tuesday and thursday through the summer.

Summer hours for the Mason and Ramsdell libraries have also been announced. The Mason Library will be open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. The children's room in the basement of the Mason Library will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday. The Ramsdell Library in Housatonic will be open from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday, and Friday and Saturday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Harris Photo

Puppeteer Lynn Shaw introduces her character to Lee children following one of last week's productions of "A Christmas Story" at the Lee Library. Mrs. Shaw, along with Barbara Unsworth, Judy Salinetti, Margot Cerruti, Diana Cinella, and Judy Ducayet, is a member of Jane's Puppet Theater, named in memory of Jane Cinella.

Dorothy Chapman

DALTON LIBRARY is planning an open house Dec. 19 to show off renovations which are now completed. Here Ann Callahan, librarian, center, explains new facilities to a 5th grade class from Craneville School during a tour of the building yesterday.

11-19-76

Renovated Dalton Library plans open house

By Dorothy W. Chapman

DALTON — The local library will conduct an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. on Dec. 19 to give residents an opportunity to view the extension renovations which were undertaken in conjunction with the Town Hall remodeling project earlier this year, according to Ann Callahan, librarian.

Renovation of the main part of the building was carried on under a $230,000 town project and was completed some time ago, however the library portion has just recently been finished, Mrs. Callahan said.

Funds for the library expansion were provided through a private contribution from the Crane family.

The library has expanded into the section of the building formerly occupied by the Town Clerk's office and that area has now become the adult reading room.

The large doors in the front of the building have been replaced with two 10-foot high panels of tempered glass. Planters for flowers and other plants have been built inside the window.

Barbara Kerans and Mary Poopor, members of the library directors are cochairmen of the open house.

Mrs. Callahan said there will be no formal ceremonies but that the event will give residents an opportunity to see what is available at the local library.

There are currently 29,000 books for circulation and Mrs. Callahan said space is now available for 4,000 more books.

Vicki Sanders

REFERENCE MATERIAL for a job-seeker is removed from a shelf by Lynn Coakley, a part-time assistant at the Berkshire Athenaeum. In her hand she has a copy of the monthly installment of "Best's Insurance Reports," a publication that lists major insurance companies by the types of insurance they sell.

Library is mine of facts for persons looking for jobs

Dorothy W. Chapman

OPEN HOUSE at the Dalton Library was held Sunday to show off recent renovations there. Standing from left to right are Walter R. Gehring, chairman of trustees; Anne Callahan, librarian; Winthrop M. Crane, trustee; and May Miller. Mrs. Crane is seated at the table. Some 150 attended the event.

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By Vicki Sanders

Though it may come as a surprise to some, a large number of area residents, caught in the high tide of unemployment, have learned that the Berkshire Athenaeum is a wealthy port of job information.

The librarians, already handling an increased circulation workload as a result of the public library's move to its new building last year, say they have discovered that job seekers and self-improvers are among the influx of new patrons.

One way to gauge the state of unemployment in the area, according to Phyllis E. Zack, head of the reference department, is to count the heads bent over the classified ads in Monday-morning newspapers. "Every Monday morning there are lots of people here," she said.

Unexpected sources

Aside from the classifieds, whose "help wanted" columns are a logical place to seek employment, Mrs. Zack said there is a considerable number of resources not readily identifiable as sources that can assist a person out of work.

Who would think, for example, of turning to "Best's Insurance Reports" or the "Directory of Franchising Organizations" when looking for work? But Mrs. Zack contends that these books and many others like them contain the kind of information that might at least provide the unemployed with names, addresses and personnel who could be helpful.

Suppose, for instance, that an insurance agent is looking for a job. "Best's Insurance Reports," by listing major companies and the types of insurance they issue, could help the agent determine where he might apply.

On the other hand, the "Directory of Franchising Organizations" would give someone interested in starting a business concise descriptions of franchise opportunities and the required investment.

Other books have titles that are more specifically concerned with jobs. "Careers in the United States Department of Commerce," "Summer Employment Directory of the United States," "How to Get the Job You Want Overseas" and the "Federal Career Directory," a guide for college students, are among the resources geared directly to putting people and jobs together.

Tip of iceberg

But the reference books, which for the most part must be used in the library and are not for circulation, form only the tip of the iceberg of circulating books available in other departments of the Athenaeum. The young adults department contains numerous pamphlets and hardcover books providing young people with information on educational requirements, earnings and growth potential within a wide range of professional and technical fields.

The general circulation department contains hundreds of titles on a variety of job-related subjects. Books such as "How to Make Money with Your Crafts," "How to Run a Small Business," "1,001 Businesses You Can Start and Win with Less than $1,000," "Fifteen Ways to Make Money in the Country" and "The Art of Job Hunting" speak to the interests of not only those out of work but also those who want to change their careers, re-educate themselves or make money in a new area of interest.

There are also books aimed at a specialized groups such as women, blacks, the elderly and handicapped. "Everything a Woman Needs to Know to Get Paid What She's Worth," "Earning Opportunites for Older Workers," "Black Opportunity" and "Employment for the Handicapped" are among the volumes available for the minority job seeker.

Dayle A. Reilly, the Athenaeum's new general-circulation librarian, said the books on Civil Service "are the most in demand," but that they are "neck-in-neck" with books on how to write resumes. "There are always people waiting on reserve lists for these books," she said.

Also popular, she said, are titles providing information on how to make a living by starting a business. "There's a big trend toward helping people help themselves," she observed.

Even the music and arts department headed by Jean Bousquet has found itself responding to requests related to the job market. "We have a lot of books describing careers in the arts and music," said Mrs. Bousquet.

Bulletin board

She also maintains a large bulletin board of arts, crafts and music events in the area. This serves, she said, not only as a guide to public events, but also to aid a craftsman, for instance, in finding out about crafts fairs he may be interested in participating in.

Mrs. Bousquet also said that "more adults than ever before are making inquiries." These people, she added, want information on where they might return to college, how to sell their crafts and so on. "Lots of people are coming in looking for direction. We can't tell them what to do but we try to guide them in the right direction," she said.

Though there has been a marked improvement over the past 10 years in the number of books her department has been able to acquire for use by the career or job seeker, Mrs. Bousquet claims that it is difficult to keep up with the public's ever-changing interests. Photography, crafts and filmmaking are fields that recently have sparked a burgeoning interest, she said.

The administration has done well to keep abreast of the arts department, she stated, but said limited budgets make it difficult to keep up.

Echoing statements made by the other librarians, Mrs. Bousquet said, "The library is not a job information center per se; we don't have the budget or personnel for that. But we try to be prepared for whatever comes up."

1-27-77

Three appointed to Lee boards

LEE — The Selectmen have filled long-standing vacancies on the Planning Board and the Board of Public Works.

Appointed last week to the Planning Board was James E. Kuneman of Theresa Terrace. He replaces Sally Weiss. Kuneman will serve on the board until the May town election, when he will be able to run for Mrs. Weiss's unexpired term.

Named to the Public Works group were George Wheeler of Fairview Street and Frank McQuade of Hartwood Drive. They replace Gary Fix and Bruce Lorance. Positions on the board are appointive, and both Wheeler and McQuade will serve until 1978.

In other business last night, the Selectmen told the state's Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) that the town's population increases by 5,000 in the summer. The ABCC requests the information in order to judge whether to grant alcoholic licenses in a town during the summer. The Selectmen set the 5,000 figure arbitrarily in order to insure that seasonal licenses are not granted.

Bible Speaks pays $100,000 for Fokine

By Susan M. Besaw

LENOX — The Bible Speaks paid $100,000 for the purchase of the Fokine Ballet Camp on Walker Street, according to deeds filed yesterday in the Central Berkshire Registry of Deeds.

The purchase price includes approximately 12 acres of land, a main building and a brick carriage house and furnishings, according to Andrew T. Campoli, attorney for the Bible Speaks.

The purchase was funded through a first mortgage of $45,000 from the Lee Savings Bank and a second mortgage of $10,000 from Donald O. Ruffer, the Pittsfield realtor who handled the sale of the property.

The remaining $45,000 will be obtained from "various sources" who are making "substantial contributions" for the Bible Speaks to continue its Christian education, according to Daniel Lewis, treasurer of the nonprofit corporation of the Bible Speaks and dean of the organization's college.

Fokine Ballet Camp is the third major purchase of the Bible Speaks since mid-April, when it bought the former Bordentown/Lenox property for $900,000. In June, the Bible Speaks purchased the former Lexia School in Lee for $110,000.

The three sites at a total cost of $1,110,00 provide the Bible Speaks with approximately 133 acres of land in Lenox and Lee. The organization has mortgages totaling $890,000.

Four members of the Christian organization have purchased in their own names the former Crestwood Nursing Home on Cliffwood Street.

The ballet camp, which the Bible Speaks is purchasing from Christine Fokine and her husband, Charles Biddleman, will be used for married students' housing, Lewis said. The Bible Speaks originally considered placing some classrooms in the main building, which Lewis said has about 40 rooms.

He said that it is not yet known how many people will be living on the Walker Street property because Bible Speaks officials are still working with the town building inspector, Harold Felton, to determine how many can live there under state and local building codes.

He added, however, that the property is in "pretty good shape" and he does not expect that many renovations will be needed to convert the main building into housing.

The transactions recorded yesterday in the registry office included a transfer of the property from Fokine Ballet Camp, Inc., of New York City to Christine and Charles Biddleman. That transaction, under which the Biddlemans were tenants in common, was apparently done for tax benefits. The transaction was subject to a $48,241.06 mortgage loan from Rul, Inc., the New York corporation which owned the property before Ms. Fokine purchased it in 1965.

The other deed recorded yesterday transferred the property from the Biddlemans to the Bible Speaks. The ballet camp was formerly the old Morgan estate. It is not tax-exempt and Campoli said that the Bible Speaks has agreed to pay an apportioned amount of the taxes for the remainder of this year. Campoli is still seeking to work out a tax arrangement with the Assessors for the two Lenox properties.

The former Lexia School and Bordentown/Lenox property will also be used as housing, but most of the married students will probably live at the ballet camp, according to Lewis. A gymnasium on the Lee property is being converted into a chapel and classroom.

The former Bordentown/Lenox property, an 86-acre tract which is mostly located between Kemble Street and Stockbridge Road in Lenox, is the organization's international headquarters and site of its Bible college and Christian day school for kindergarten through 12.

The day school program will begin next Tuesday with about 80 students enrolled, Lewis said, and registration for college will be held the following week. College classes will start Sept. 20.

Priest gets permit for Lee solicitation

LEE — A priest who says he represents the Franciscan Fathers of Christ of the newly established American Orthodox Catholic Archdiocese of New York City has been granted a restricted solicitation permit by the Selectmen.

The priest, who identified himself as the Rev. Robert Leonard, last week excommmunicated the Great Barrington Selectmen from the mystical body of Christ after they refused to grant his church permission to solicit for money in that town.

At last night's Selectmen's meeting here, Father Leonard, clad in white monk's robe with a rope belt and several dangling crosses, was granted a permit to solicit from next Monday through Aug. 8.

The permit specifies that representatives of the church must not solicit door-to-door; must solicit only in the downtown business district on Mondays through Fridays during daylight hours, and must receive permission from property owners if they solicit on private property, such as in a store.

In arguing for the permit, Father Leonard said that his solicitation method was "just like the way the Salvation Army does it."

Father Leonard said he would raise money to establish a novitiate in the county to train young men for religious vocations. He said he has established temporary residence in Great Barrington on Dresser Avenue.

Father Leonard, who appeared to be in his late 20s or early 30s, said last week in Great Barrington that his church is an offshoot of the Greek and Russian Orthodox faiths. He said the church has six ordained priests and was founded in 1970 by Archbishop Walter M. Propheta, a politically minded cleric who initiated a movement called the "Crusade Against Communism."

The church is now in the process of moving out of New York City because costs of maintaining a parish there have become prohibitive, Father Leonard said last week.

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

PLEA for solicitation permit is made in Lee by the Rev. Robert Leonard, who said he represented the recently-formed American Orthodox Catholic Archdiocese of New York City.

2/17/1972

Church leads in providing Lee sex education

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — The Congregational Church, with its stately white facade and towering steeple, seems an unlikely institution to be in the vanguard of sex education in this town of 6,400.

Yet 20 7th and 8th graders of both sexes are currently enrolled in a sex-education course that is part of the church's Christian-education series.

What makes the course unusual here is that no other local church offers anything resembling it and the public schools include sex education only in the context of health and biology courses.

The Congregational Church course is taught by the Rev. Walter S. Ryan, the church's pastor, and features lectures by local physicians and family counselors.

The material in the course includes detailed explanations of human sexual intercourse and reproduction and is spliced with words of guidance about dating and adolescent sexual feelings.

Mr. Ryan, a quiet man with silver hair and a gentle smile, says such a course is necessary "because we live in a time when the doors to the subject are wide open. The facts are open to anyone. They appear in any news store, in the newspapers and on the television."

The purpose of the course, Mr. Ryan says, is to provide a safety fence to guard against the children of his parishioners falling into the pit of sexual misunderstanding, maladjustment and promiscuity.

"If there is no religion in sex education, young people tumble into experiences without knowing what they are getting into," Mr. Ryan explains.

"Those bad experiences lead to unhappy dating, premarital sex, unwanted babies and the quick termination of marriages. In short, it is easy for young people today to lack adequate preparation for marriage," Mr. Ryan says.

He announced the course by sending a letter to all adult parishioners asking permission for their children to take the course. Mr. Ryan's own son, an 8th grader, is one of his students.

St. Mary's Pastor, the Rev. Joseph F. Gagan, who presides over the largest Catholic church in this largely Catholic community says that a sex-education course is not the impossibility it once was.

"A sex education course is probably something we will have to look into within the next year or so," Father Gagan said, referring to both St. Mary's School and classes held at the church.

"A sex-education course is probably something all schools will have to have sooner or later. Youngsters today are subjected to sex a great deal," Father Gagan said.

He added that a sex-education course would be advantageous because "it would channel to our students the teachings of our faith."

Lee school officials frankly admit that sex education is a touchy subject in the public schools and that any discussion of the subject is contained in health and science courses.

"You don't wave a red flag under the nose of a bull," says Central School Principal Raymond Kavey.

There are 1,135 students in Lee public schools this year, and 900 of them are enrolled in Grades K-8 where the bulk of fundamental sex education is taught.

The sections directly pertaining to sex are only small portions of each year's curriculum.

Tasteful program

"Our program is done tastefully," Kavey says. It's not really just sex education, but rather the courses which include sex education cover the broad spectrum of health and family living."

The curriculum is based on the 1972 report of the Health Program Study Committee, a subcommittee formed by the Lee School Committee. The subcommittee was chaired by Henry G. Greiner, current head of the committee, and Joseph P. Savery, still a member of the committee.

The specific sections pertaining to sex education in the curriculum of Grades 1-8, according to a manual used by administrators and teachers at the Central School, are:

Grade 1: A discussion of how animals give birth.

Grade 2: An investigation and comparison "of one's self with other children of the same age."

Grade 3: A group guidance session which includes a section entitled " 'What About Me?' the dimensions of personality.' " The purpose of the section is to provide each child with a sense of self. Instruction on personal hygiene is included.

Grade 4: The course includes instruction on the dangers of drugs, and an 8-week course on the "Dimensions of Personality." That section "focuses on the individual as an unique person who shares with his peers the joys and heartaches of physical, emotional and mental growth."

Grade 5: Instruction includes preliminary biology instruction on the body's cells, respiratory and circulatory systems. Different filmstrips for boys and girls entitled "There's a New You Comin' " are shown. The filmstrip includes explanations of the bodily changes that come with puberty. Parents have the option of keeping their children from taking this course, or any portion of it, Kavey said. The course also includes a brief section on the importance of the family and the desirability of talking over questions and problems with parents.

Grade 6: A continuation of the discussion of physical and mental growth.

Ralph E. Brown

Rev. Walter S. Ryan
Facts open to anyone

Grades 7 and 8: The curriculum features a more advanced biology course. A film strip on the causes of venereal disease is shown to 8th graders.

Changing curriculum

Kavey says that the curriculum has changed over the years to reflect the changing knowledge of the students.

"It used to be that the filmstrip for girls that includes the explanation on menstruation was given in the 8th grade. But then we found that it was something the girls were having questions about at younger ages. It's now been moved down to the Grade 5 level," he said.

Mr. Ryan's course is different from the one given in the schools in several ways. First, Mr. Ryan's course is taught to 8th graders, who, being older, are already experiencing sexual feelings.

"The subject matter we discuss in the course includes situations and feelings that the young people are likely to be experiencing in their daily lives," Mr. Ryan says.

Secondly, Mr. Ryan's course, which is taught with the aid of filmstrips and books from the Lutheran Church's Concordia series, is centered on much more than just the facts of life.

The aim of the course is to have the young parishioners conduct their premarital lives in a way which Mr. Ryan feels will lead to a happy and fulfilling married life. That essentially means that the students are taught that sex is natural, but that the root of a relationship should not be sex. Sexual intercourse, Mr. Ryan feels, should be reserved for marriage.

Mr. Ryan's main fear of the current "loose" sexual climate is that it will lead to the disintegration of the family. The course stresses the importance of the family, and therefore suggests a pattern for happy adolescent experiences leading to happy marriages by "adequately" prepared adults.

The pattern is based on a wide variety of non-sexual experiences with many people of the opposite sex.

Healthy patterns

"The course tries to set up healthy patterns for a person's sex life. It deals with both moral and physical problems," Mr. Ryan says.

"It offers a full exposure to sex terms and vocabulary. The course is designed so that kids can learn to talk about the subject openly without repressed feelings. One-half of the problem is solved if we talk openly about these things and use the proper vocabulary," he explains.

Mr. Ryan does not approve of what he believes is the pervasive influence of sex in our society today, and the course is an attempt to help his young parishioners deal with the situation.

"I think there is enough evidence in the state and nation which demonstrates our careless handling of sex," Mr. Ryan said.

"We have only to look at the spread of venereal disease, the number of unwanted babies and the overall marketing of sex to see that we have problems. What all this leads to for today's young people is a cheapening of their interpersonal relationships," he says.

The current social trend of unwed couples living together is a real evil in our society, Mr. Ryan believes.

"A lot of living together is physical and emotional," he says. "But there is much more than that to marriage. Marriage doesn't enter into the thinking of these young people. The act of sexual intercourse in itself is not bad, it is a God-given gift. But it can be used to set up dangerous patterns."

The problem with living together, Mr. Ryan says, is that "a couple could be temporarily happy, but such a communal living arrangement would not insure a successful and happy married life with the traditional family relationships.

"What young people today have to realize is that for a marriage to be truly happy, it must also be right for the couple's family and friends. The family is the backbone of the whole society," he says.

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Benjamin L. Ginsberg

BIBLE SPEAKS spokesman Edward Canino, right photo, last night in Lee explained his group's plans for the Lexia School on Summer Street. Pictured in rear of photo is Selectman Martin H. Deely. In photo at left, Summer Street resident Kenneth J. LaBier (standing) questions some of the group's plans. Seated in foreground, right, are Dan Lewis, Bible Speaks treasurer and dean, and Gary Baril, business manager.

Bible Speaks vows 'good neighbor' policy in Lee hearing on plans for Lexia School

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — The Bible Speaks plans no door-to-door solicitations of any type in Lee, leaders of the religious organization that last week purchased the Lexia School on Summer Street assured town officials last night.

That guarantee from the Bible Speaks' chief spokesman, Edward Canino, came at a public hearing where five Bible Speaks officials offered repeated assurances that the group wanted to be "good citizens of the community." About 10 townspeople attended the hearing, which was called by the Selectmen.

The 35-acre Lexia School will have two main functions, Canino said. The first will be to house the organization's 500-seat chapel and the second will be to provide housing for between 60 and 65 female college students. The main Bible Speaks campus is in Lenox on the site of the former Bordentown/Lenox School.

Canino also said one of his organization's first priorities would be to fix up a large swimming pool and athletic field on the school's grounds. Those facilities will then be made available to residents of Lee on a scheduled basis, Canino said.

The athletic facilities will be part of a package that the Bible Speaks will offer the town in lieu of annual tax payments. Canino said the organization was a religious and educational organization and would seek tax-exempt status from the state and town.

But, Canino said, the Bible Speaks realizes it must make some contribution to the community. "Taxes are a very delicate issue. It's just something we will have to sit down and talk about," he said.

He assured the town officials that no one from his group would attend Lee's public schools.

The Bible Speaks official, a diminutive man with curly hair who is also the group's chief architect, spoke in gentle tones as he frequently stressed that his group would not at all resemble the students of the former Lexia School. Many of those students were juvenile delinquents referred to the school by the state. Neighbors of the school reported frequent vandalism in the area.

"We will have between 60 and 66 female students ranging in age from 18 to about 33," he said. "There will also be two staff families living in the dorms just to take care of things." Students will begin moving into the dorms about Aug. 1. They will be taken to Lenox on the organization's shuttle bus, Canino said. All students have an 11 p.m. curfew. There will be no food served on the Lee campus.

The 500-seat converted gymnasium that will be the organization's chapel should be ready for use by mid-August, Canino said. Services are held on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings. There will be parking places for about 150 cars on the grounds.

The 150 cars coming to the Lee campus raised the question of access to the school, which Canino termed the most serious problem with the facility.

There is currently only a narrow dirt access road from Summer Street. Further, the boundary lines of that road are unclear, according to Mrs. Ralph Conroy, whose home is on the road.

Canino said the Bible Speaks was seriously considering building an access road from Mandalay Road, on which the school also fronts. Canino promised further study of the problem, including such potential solutions as putting a stop sign where the access road joins Summer Street and having a policeman direct traffic after the services.

The female students housed at the school will only have about 25 cars, which should present no serious traffic problem during the week, Canino said.

The Selectmen requested that the Bible Speaks consult with the appropriate town boards and inspectors in doing their renovation work. Canino agreed and said he will meet with the Planning Board next Monday at 8:30 p.m.

"The last thing we want to do is isolate ourselves from the community," Canino said.

The reshaping of a personality

Station WGRG continues to change in wake of mass firing

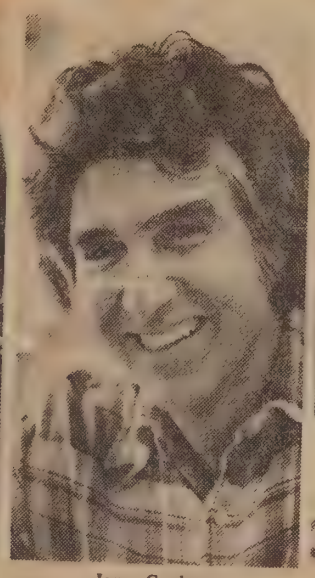
By Vicki Sanders

In what has been described as the Berkshire equivalent of former President Nixon's Saturday Night Massacre, seven broadcasters were fired from their positions at radio station WGRG on Jan. 10. When their jobs were terminated without notice or severance pay, a broadcasting experiment unique in Berkshire experience came to a close.

The reasons for the firings, according to officials of the station, were twofold. One was financial—management felt the staff was too large in comparison to advertising revenues and listenership. Several sources close to the station went so far as to suggest that the firings were the station's only means for economic survival.

The other reason was the fact that management met resistance from the staff when it attempted to implement programming changes aimed at increasing the station's listening audience.

Thomas Zarechi
He's confident of future.



Jerry Graham
The staff had mushroomed.

Mel Gordon
He found 'no respect.'

Reshaped

Whatever the reasons, the fact remains that WGRG's personality as a station with offbeat news and commentary, quality editorials, low-key approach and combination jazz, rock and classical music, has been noticeably reshaped in recent weeks by the station's new program director, 24-year-old Thomas Zarechi.

The new WGRG is now sticking to well-known bands and singers for the bulk of its programming and is playing current top-40 hits—a distinct departure from past practice.

The WGRG of today is still in the formative stages, however, and it is too early to tell how the station's new personality will define itself.

The only person from the station's official ranks who seems to bemoan the staff cuts is Roberta Rutenberg of New York. She, along with Mel Gordon of Connecticut and Jerry Graham, the station's former manager, are the three owners of WGRG. The initials of their three last names form the last three of the station's call letters.

Mrs. Rutenberg, who says she was not consulted about the station's financial situation or made privy to the events leading up to the firings, was not informed of the details until she learned of them from sources outside the station this week.

She will be in Pittsfield today at 1 p.m. for a shareholders' meeting with the station's other owners, managers and attorneys.

WGRG started some 4½ years ago when Graham, a youthful and innovative New York broadcasting consultant, began sending out airwaves from a small and scantily equipped studio at 73 Fourth St. He and his young, liberal staff soon drew an audience away from the area's more traditional stations.

They did this by winning awards for news and editorials, by barring paid political advertising and inviting candidates to air their views free of charge, by adding a 24-hour FM station to their regular dawn-to-dusk broadcasting and by playing music that could rarely be heard elsewhere.

Announces departure

When Graham announced last summer that he was leaving to become general manager of one of the West Coast's most popular stations, KSAN of San Francisco, it created debate over whether WGRG would ever be the same again.

He left with high praise for his staff, saying in an editorial before his departure that "WGRG has become too synonymous with Jerry Graham, while in fact there are more than 20 sensitive, creative people here ready for more responsibility and more recognition."

With this farewell as their impetus, the staff continued to program in much the same way they had when Graham was there. They became more and more independent of management in the belief that they were carrying out Graham's original concept of the station.

Internal problems between the staff and the station's new management—former sales manager Myron "Mike" Adelson as general manager and Gordon as president of the corporation—worsened as management increased its attempts to decrease staff size and to tighten control over programming.

Graham admitted during a recent telephone interview that he was largely, but indirectly, responsible for the conflicts that erupted after his departure.

"Looking back," he said, "I realized that the WGRG staff was too large. I knew it was too large when I was there, but it didn't really hit me until I came to KSAN and found a staff of 28 people." WGRG had about 24 in a population center many times smaller than San Francisco's.

'Too big'

"I knew I had let it get too big," Graham continued. "It was my fault for trying to run it in my paternal and prideful way."

He also said that for a time after leaving WGRG he attempted to run it long distance. He intervened during a firing session in September in which Adelson was asking five staff members to leave. Though Graham said he had endorsed budget cuts that Adelson was carrying out by discharging some of the staff, he called from California during the session and called three of the firings off.

The turmoil and confusion created by that incident, he said, taught him that management of the station should lie more in the hands of Adelson and Gordon. "I realized that the station's ultimate survival depended on my divorcing myself from it," he said. "I was smothering the child."

As Graham's influence diminished, it became apparent that the main roadblock to change was difficulty in teaching an old staff new tricks. The problem was further complicated by a growing lack of communication between management and staff when it came to drawing up new work schedules, working longer hours and making changes in the types of music played.

'A free-form thing'

"Management wanted tighter programming," said Kenny Marks, a 4½-year veteran of the station who was programming director when he was fired. "That's where most of our indignation came from. The station had always been a free-form thing...and suddenly they wanted a totally different concept from the one we had helped to create."

Marks described WGRG as the kind of station that people who wanted to learn more about music listened to. "We weren't afraid to offend our listeners," he said.

Though the broadcasters were not completely unprepared for the firings—rumors had been going about the station ever since September— they were shocked and upset by the way they were told about them.

The day before the "purge," as some of the disc jockeys have called it, six of them received phone calls and were ordered to appear at the station the next day. Then, one after another, they filed into the office to be told by Christopher Caggiano, a manager of Connecticut radio station WINE, an executive assistant to Gordon and a man whom none of them had met previously, that they were fired.

Geoffrey Outlaw, the seventh person fired that day, was not telephoned beforehand, but rather taken off the air that Saturday morning during his country western show and told he couldn't finish his program.

Part-time offers

Several of the broadcasters were offered part-time jobs instead, but it is not yet known, which, if any, will take WGRG up on its offer. One newscaster, Anne Errington, was asked to stay on as news director. Tim Ashwell, Glenn Lambert, John Seakwood, Bill Lehman, Bill Northup, Kenny Marks, Kimberly Rawson, Bruce Brigham and Outlaw were no longer part of WGRG.

Another move which WGRG management made was to shorten the FM hours by going off the air between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m., and to take off several of its special programs, such as astrology, in order to review them for possible resurrection within a new format.

When first announcing the firing of the staff members, Adelson had said they were let go for economic reasons. The broadcasters didn't buy that.

During an interview several weeks ago with Gordon and Adelson, Gordon admitted, "Budget was a factor but not a major factor."

Blames lack of respect

The major factor, he said, was that "Most of the staff had no respect for management, no respect for the community and no respect for the station."

He said he wanted to make WGRG more respectful and more responsible to "a larger and less elitist audience."

A Pulse Survey, requested by the station last year to evaluate listenership, found that the bulk of WGRG listeners were aged 18-35. Gordon said he wants to continue to appeal to that group but also to listeners in other age brackets.

Ronald A. Stratton, executive vice president of radio station WBEC, cited statistics from an American Research Bureau survey taken last spring. The survey showed, he said, that the weekly average listenership for an average ¼ hour for ages 12 and up was 4,600 for WBEC, 2,900 for WBRK, 1,700 for WQRB and 700 for WGRG.

Gordon said he hopes to capture a larger audience by allowing for more community involvement in the station providing more public programs.

Some are skeptical

Hard-core WGRG li have, in recent weel pressed skepticism WGRG's future. At least ters have been written Eagle, each of them exp chagrin and disapprova the change in personnel.

Zarechi, the new prog rector and a young man years of experience in rac mains confident, however WGRG will continue to a to its old audience while at ing a new one.

He plans, he said, to rein editorial comment, to cor the news and commentary play more popular music and to bring back some of special programs.

Zarechi, a former ABC br cast engineer who comes WGRG from WINE in C necticut, said high on his pr ity list is putting WGRG back on the air 24 hours a "As soon as it is economic feasible, we'll do it."

Furthermore, he said, "I w to play music that will be al compassing. I am going maintain what made WGRG mous and mix in some things as well."

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Bible Speaks warned commercial plans are taxable

By Susan Besaw

LENOX — The Selectmen, with the approval of other town boards and officials, yesterday drafted what was described as a "letter of caution" to Carl Stevens, president and pastor of The Bible Speaks, which is buying the former Bordentown/Lenox School property and is negotiating to buy the Curtis Hotel.

This comes amid reports, still uncomfirmed, that people from the religous organization are handing out literature at Berkshire Community College.

Pointing to "limited communication and personal contact" between Stevens, other Bible Speaks officials, and Lenox town boards, the letter states the Selectmen have read "with interest but also with some consternation" the announcements made by Stevens at an open house Saturday and reported in The Eagle.

The letter notes that the Board of Assesors has classified the Bordentown/School property as taxable as of Jan. 1.

The letter states that if any of the buildings or land are "used substantially for commercial purposes not directly related to religious or education purposes" then transfer to The Bible Speaks, a non-profit corporation, would not necessarily exclude the property from a taxable status. This, says the letter, would apply to other properties the organization may purchase which are now taxable and would continue to be operated as a public-commercial operation. Stevens said Saturday that the group would use the Curtis Hotel for public lodging in the summer, with some rooms open to the public the rest of the year. A public restaurant is also planned there.

The letter further states that the non-profit status of the corporation would not remove it from complying with local building code regulations, zoning bylaws, and regulations of other town boards such as the Board of Health and the Sewer Commissioners.

The Selectmen at several past meetings have expressed concern that the sewer line which serves the school may be overextended if 400 to 500 people from The Bible Speaks are on the property.

"We're not about to go to the town meeting in May to ask for $100,000 for that sewer line," Selectmen George R. Lagarce said today. He added that the town is committed through 1978 on its East Street sewer project.

The letter closes by asking that Stevens seek counsel from the Selectmen and other town boards on its plans.

"We want to be sure they touch base (with us)," Lagarce said. "He (Stevens) has made some public announcements that can't be implemented without consultation of boards in Lenox."

Lagarce said he was referring to several plans of The Bible Speaks, including, for example, the announced intent of the organization to run the Wilde Sports Center as a commercial operation.

Stevens has not met with any town officials, according to Lagarce. He noted only one meeting was held about a month ago, between Selectmen Chairman John J. Pignatelli Jr., Assessors Board Chairman Edward G. Conklin Building Inspector Harold Felton and the organization's architect and business manager.

The letter will be sent by registered mail today to Stevens and Stanley Ryba, a vice president of the First Agricultural Bank of Berkshire County. Besides the Selectmen, approval of the letter has been given by the town counsel, the building inspector, the Assessors and the Planning Board, according to Lagarce.

1/22/76

500 from Bible school expected in Lenox today

LENOX — About 500 Bible students, teachers and school administrators from The Bible Speaks will attend an open house at the former Bordentown/Lenox campus here today.

The Bible Speaks, a religiously oriented institution headquartered in South Berwick, Maine, has signed a purchase agreement for the former preparatory school.

The sale of the school will be completed by April 1.

The organization will move its three-year Bible college with an enrollment of 350 students this year to Lenox.

According to Edward Canino, the school's architect and the organizer of today's program, the open house will include a luncheon, a tour of the property, a basketball game at 2 p.m. and a church service in the school's dining hall between 4 and 5.

The church service and the game are open to the public, he added, but only about 50 chairs will be set up in the gymnasium for the game.

Selectmen John J. Pignatelli and George R. Lagarce said yesterday that they did not receive official notice of the open house, but heard of it informally. Pignatelli said it was his understanding that town officials would be invited.

Repeated telephone calls to the school's Maine headquarters for details of today's open house have not been returned.

1/17/76 Eagle

BIBLE SPEAKS-officials face Lenox town officials and residents in meeting last night.

Stephen Hawkins

Lenox residents, officials grill spokesmen for The Bible Speaks

By Susan M. Besaw

LENOX — More than 60 officials and other Lenox residents fired questions about sewage and parking facilities, as well as possible problems of economic impact and tax-free status, at a tense meeting here last night with representa tives of The Bible Speaks, which is buy ing the former Bordentown/Lenox prop erty south of town.

While most of the issues remained u resolved, the meeting was welcomed l most town officials and residents as t first opportunity for questions to asked directly to representatives of t Bible group. The representatives we Ed Canino, the group's architect and la night's spokesman; Daniel Lewis, who dean of the three-year Bible colle which will be relocated to Lenox; a Gary Baril, business manager.

The Selectmen, who chaired the me ing, all made opening remarks in somewhat formal procedure. Selectm George R. Lagarce raised an issue whi has apparently been on the minds many residents, who believe that the Bible Speaks, as an evangelical group, plans to reach out into the community to espouse the group's non-denominational, Christian beliefs.

"We have consistently followed a strict policy that anyone coming into town can not solicit or violate anyone's individual rights," Lagarce said. "We will be very firm in that regard."

The Selectmen all agreed on one non-religious point — if The Bible Speaks intends to operate any part of the campus, such as the Wilde Sports Center, for commercial and public use, it will be taxable.

Lagarce also raised the possibility that the Selectmen and Assessors might take the matter to court if The Bible Speaks refuses to pay taxes. He said a "precedent" had been set in town because several church rectories and parsonages, not used strictly for religious or educational purposes, are now paying taxes. Lagarce did not identify them. Canino said the Bible Speaks does not consider operation of the sports center a "commercial enterprise" but that the group

Lenox grills
Continued on Page 13

Lenox grills Bible Speaks spokesmen

Continued from Page 1

was prepared to make a yearly contribution. He mentioned a $5,000 figure and said this would be open to negotiation.

Another issue of concern was the sewer line which will serve the school and probably be overloaded if around 500 students and faculty members are using it by next September, as the group plans.

According to figures from the town's consulting engineers, the cost of replacing the sewer line in 1977 may be $200,000, compared to only $68,000 in 1965. The engineers recommend that the sewer line be replaced, but as the Selectmen observed last night, the town is committed for several years on its East Street sewer project.

In a meeting later with Wayne R. Weatherhead, chairman of the Sewer Building Committee, the Selectmen also said they wanted to know how many residents could be serviced on the existing line before it became a health hazard. Lagarce also said the Bible Speaks may want to delay the actual purchase of the property, slated, April 1, until the sewer problem has been resolved.

Weatherhead noted that sewer construction is partly reimbursable from the state, but added that it was "extremely doubtful" that construction could begin before 1979 or 1980, considering all the necessary paperwork.

At the main meeting, Canino said the group was still seeking housing for its married students and raised the possibility that the group's bid to buy the Curtis Hotel, which was turned down by its owners last week, may be renegotiated.

He said The Bible Speaks will have its own college, church and day school in Lenox by next September, but about 10 high school students may have to attend public schools here until the group starts its own high school.

School Committee Chairman Thor Steinert stated that 10 students may cost the town $10,000. A question was also raised concerning the School Committee's approval of any private school which opens in town.

School Supt. Roland M. Miller said this morning that it was his understanding, on reading a section of the Massachusetts General Laws, that the School Committee would have to approve The Bible Speaks' plans.

Several Stockbridge Road residents protested the group's plans for expanding activities at the Wilde Sports Center and, thus, increasing the traffic flow on that road. The Selectmen this week also received a letter from Charles Alberti, an abutter, registering his opposition to the group's plans. Canino said that cars of students, faculty members and the school's own commercial vehicles may number up to 230, but would be even greater at times when the group has church services open to the community.

Canino also stated that 90 per cent of the students will seek jobs in the area, a comment that drew murmurs of protest from several residents and prompted one to ask what will happen if the students do not get jobs.

Canino added that he did not know how quickly or how much the Bible Speaks will expand its campus in Lenox, but it might be up to 800 people in four or five years.

He also said that no helicopters will be brought into Lenox if it "really bothers people."

F50 173

Feb 3 1976
Eagle

Bible Speaks roster in Lenox expected to start at 350

By Susan M. Besaw

LENOX — The Maine campus of the three-year Bible college of the Bible Speaks will remain in operation, and only an estimated 250 students, faculty and supporting personnel will be living on the group's property here on the former Bordentown/Lenox School. These plus off-campus students here are expected to total 350.

That information came in a brief meeting Saturday in Maine with Carl Stevens, president and pastor of the Bible Speaks.

He said the group has decided to keep the Maine campus operating with at least 100 students, with approximately another 300 students moving to Lenox initially.

Only about 250 people, including some 200 single students, will be living full-time on the campus, he said. The remaining 100 married students will probably be placed in another property in town such as the Curtis Hotel, if that deal is renegotiated.

The number of students living on the Lenox campus has been a sore point with the Selectmen, who fear that the sewer line serving the school would be seriously overextended and may present a health hazard if 300 to 400 students are living there.

The Selectmen are now waiting for a report from the town's consulting engineers on how many people could be accommodated at the campus without causing a health hazard.

Stevens also announced at a service Thursday in Maine that 28 students arrived in Lenox Wednesday and held the group's first prayer meeting that night.

Ed Canino, the group's architect in charge of maintenance and renovation on the campus here, said today that some of the students have already gone back, leaving a total of 20 to 24 students and staff working on the property.

He said the students are helping with painting and other maintenance tasks.

He confirmed the group is exploring several alternatives for housing additional students. One of those possibilities, he said, is renting rooms from Holliston Junior College, the former Windsor Mountain School.

That college is on the same sewer line as Bordentown/Lenox.

Lee minister will offer history-of-religion series

LEE — The Rev. Walter S. Ryan, pastor of the First Congregational Church, will offer a six-week course entitled "A Religious History of the United States" beginning Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the church and continuing for the next five Wednesdays.

Mr. Ryan will also give an illustrated lecture, "The Church's History and Heritage," tomorrow afternoon at 3 at the church.

The programs are sponsored by the Berkshire Association of the United Churches of Christ Education Committee as part of its bicentennial study program.

The six-week series will include a 15-minute chapel session and a 1¾-hour seminar. Subjects to be discussed include religious freedom in America, bicentennial resources for churches and class procedures in adult education.

Mr. Ryan is a native of England and holds degrees from New York University, Springfield (Mass.) College and Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Conn.

The public is invited. No admission fee will be charged.

Lee pupils ready gym show for Tuesday

LEE — Pupils in Grades 5-8 at the Central School and St. Mary's School will give a gymnastics demonstration Tuesday at 7:30 at the Central School gymnasium.

The demonstration is under the direction of Linda Moran, a Central School gym teacher, and is being sponsored by the Lee Parents-Teachers Organization.

Assisting Mrs. Moran will be

Stephen Hawkins

STANDING-ROOM CROWD listened and asked questions at a meeting of Lenox officials and three representatives of The Bible Speaks last night at the Town Hall. It was the first public meeting between townspeople and officials of The Bible Speaks, a religious group from Maine which is buying the former Bordentown/Lenox School property here. Story on Page 1.

1-9-76

~~175~~ 174

Mark Mitchell

PASTOR Carl Stevens, who is also president of the Bible Speaks, which will have its international headquarters at the former Bordentown/Lenox School, held an audience of some 800 supporters enthralled Saturday at an open house held in Lenox. (Other pictures of open house, Page 26.)

Religious group to make Lenox its international headquarters

By Susan M. Besaw

LENOX — The former Bordentown/Lenox School will become the international headquarters of the Bible Speaks, a Christian educationally oriented corporation now headquartered in South Berwick, Maine, it was announced at a day-long open house here Saturday before an estimated 800 enthusiastic supporters from Maine, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Other announcements made before the group or to a reporter in an informal meeting with Carl Stevens, pastor and president of the Bible Speaks, were:

— The group has offered $175,000 for the Curtis Hotel and has already put down an unspecified amount toward the purchase.

— About 300 to 400 students, faculty and staff for the offices and three-year Bible college will be moving here in June.

— A Christian day school for children of students and other personnel will begin next September. A high school is tentatively planned the following year. These will be open to the public.

— The Wilde Sports Center will be managed by the school (an anticipated 24 hours a day), and membership cards will be issued to area residents. A swimming pool and, possibly, a sauna health club will be built adjoining the Wilde center.

— Negotiations are underway with two Boston teams, the Celtics and the Bruins, to hold their practice sessions and exhibition games at the center.

—Several one-acre and 2½-acre lots on the property will be for sale.

—A physician, plumber, and several full-time and part-time guards willbe on the property.

Concerning the Curtis Hotel, Stevens said that it would be used as housing for married students for the Northeast School of the Bible, the three-year Bible College for the training of missionaries,which will be moved from Maine to Lenox. Stevens said the hotel would still be operated as hotel yearround, but all the rooms only be open to the public for 10 weeks in the summer. A restaurant on the first floor would serve both the students and the public. The group will not want the hotel's liquor license.

The hotel has also been proposed as a state-subsidized housing project for the elderly. Stevens said the state has asked the Bible Speaks not to sign a purchase agreement for seven days so that the state can seek funding for conversion of the hotel to a housing project. That conversion is expected to cost more than $1 million.

Officials of the state Department of Community Affairs (DCA) office in Springfield, which is working with the Lenox Housing Authority on the project, today disclaimed any knowledge of the Maine organization's offer.

Salli Gordon, manager of the hotel, said Saturday that several other parties are interested in the Curtis and that no definite decision on its sale has been made.

The open house included tours of the school site and the Curtis, a spaghetti dinner in the school's main dining hall, a talk and church service by Stevens, and a basketball game with a team from the Bible Speaks vs. Deluca's Restaurant, a team in the Dalton community basketball league.

Most of the 800 people attending were seen carrying Bibles. They indicated their enthusiastic support of both the Bible Speaks and pastor Stevens, who shook hands with many of them. The followers also apparently support the Bible Speaks evangelical orientation. There were many cries of "Praise the Lord" and other exclamations in support of the group's Christian beliefs, particularly at the church service.

The Bible Speaks, according to school officials, hopes to work with area churches in programs similar to those they have in Maine, such as citywide crusades, where people from the Bible Speaks go out into the community spreading the "good word" of the Bible, and, thus, drum up support for area churches.

Stevens also said that Lenox town officials will be invited to an open house at the new campus before June 1. The closing date of the $900,000 sale of the former preparatory school is slated on or before April 1.

Mark Mitchell

Sermonizing

Carl Stevens, at right, pastor and president of the Bible Speaks, a nonprofit religious corporation which will be headquartered at the former Bordentown Lenox School in Lenox gave a sermon Saturday to about 800 of its students, faculty and parishioners, some of whom are shown above, in a daylong open house at the Lenox campus. The former preparatory school will be the Bible Speaks international missionary headquarters. Story and other photo on Page 1, Section 2.

1-19-76

Preacher hits road to reach truck drivers

CORNING, Calif. (UPI) — At the Dudley and Petty truck stop, two truckers with tears in their eyes emerge from a tractor trailer equipped with a lighted cross and the words "Mobile Chapel" on the side.

"I'm Bunny. Have a cup of coffee with us. Praise the Lord," says a smiling black-haired man with "Chaplain" embroidered on his blue western-style suit.

Minutes earlier, Bunny and the truckers, dressed in greasy jeans and yellow slickers, ended a raucous prayer session with bear hugs. As they left, they made no effort to wipe away their tears of emotion.

"My real name's Orville Gregory, but nobody knows me by any name but Bunny," the 38-year-old former Hampton, Va., church pastor says.

With his wife, Blonnie, and their son, Orville Jr., 9, Gregory drives around the United States and Canada in his church-on-wheels, which doubles as living quarters.

The mission is to bring religion directly to the truckers.

Inside the trailer an electric piano stands in the sanctuary of the chapel equipped with pews.

"We'll preach to 40,000 — 40 at a time. Praise the Lord," declares Mrs. Gregory.

Gregory, who joined a nationwide organization called Transport for Christ in August, says he also provides safety lectures with companies paying drivers to attend.

"We'll give them a first rate safety program, then I'll preach the gospel to them at the end."

"Mostly, though, we work at truck stops. Get a driver to come in, just curious, offer him a cup of coffee, and by the time he's walked back to the piano, I can lay out a plan of personal salvation for him," Gregory says.

"Amen!" his wife exclaims. "Bunny'll talk to them anywhere he can find them. Once he climbed up the side of the tractor and got that driver to accept Jesus as his personal savior right there in the cab, praise the Lord."

"Amen," adds Gregory. "We give them curb service if that's what it takes."

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

HYDE MANSION on West Park Street in Lee, has been accepted for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Built around 1800 for the Hyde family, the building has served as the Hyde Park boarding school, and more recently as the center of the Southern Berkshire YMCA. The building was nominated for the list by the Lee Historical Commission and the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

12/16/76

Hyde mansion played role in Lee history

12/20/76

LEE — The Hyde Mansion on West Park Street, nominated last week for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, has played a role in the religious, educational and recreational history of the town over the last 184 years.

The Georgian-style house was built in 1792 by the Rev. Alvan Hyde, the first minister of the Lee Congregational Church. When Mr. Hyde died in 1833 after 41 years as head of the church, the house was inherited by his son, Alexander.

In 1837, Alexander opened the Hyde Park Family Boarding School, at the house. The school continued until 1867, and a large addition at the rear of the house was built to accommodate the students. The school attracted students from New York, Boston and Chicago, including President Franklin D. Roosevelt's father, James Roosevelt, and Arthur Gilman, an educator who went on to help found Radcliffe College.

Alexander Hyde played a key role in developing public education in Lee. He was instrumental in the founding of Lee Academy, which later became Lee High School. The Hyde School on High Street is named after him.

Alexander Hyde was also the first president of the Berkshire Historical and Scientific Society, and contributed weekly articles on scientific agriculture to the New York Times.

He closed the school in 1867, and the Hyde Mansion became a private residence until 1967. The house in that year was given to the newly-founded Lee YMCA.

The Y used the building as its administrative headquarters until earlier this year. The Y — which has been renamed the Southern Berkshire YMCA — plans to use the building in the spring for meetings and some recreational activities.

In nominating the building for inclusion on the national register, the Lee Historical Committee and the Massachusetts Historical Commission pointed to several characteristics of Georgian style architecture — a symmetrical five-bay facade, a low-hipped roof and a classical doorway capped with a triangular pediment.

The interior design of the original house has been changed considerably over the years. The original symmetrical layout of the first floor rooms along a central hallway has been altered. The two front rooms are still the same, but the central staircase has been removed and the partitions that formed the back rooms have been taken out to create one large room.

Construct to begin program of house renovations in Lee

2-3-77

LEE — Construct, Inc., a nonprofit organization that works under the umbrella of Southern Berkshire Community Action, will embark on a housebuilding and restoration program here next year.

Roy Hanson, the executive director of Construct, announced this week that his organization is negotiating to buy a lot on Laurel Avenue. He said a single-family home would be built on the site.

Hanson also said at a Monday night Selectmen's meeting that Construct is seeking old homes in Lee to renovate. The group uses federal money for the projects.

Hanson also released a report on the activities of the Lee SBCA office from October through December. A total of 65 calls came into the office concerning food stamps, and 14 for information about a rental-assistance program.

The majority of office visits concerned the food stamp program. The office is staffed by Ida Hitchcock and is located on the second floor of the Town Hall.

The SBCA day-care program in Lee is undersubscribed, Hanson said. He said that children of working parents are cared for in individual homes in the area at no cost.

Hanson also reported that SBCA has given out about $150 of the $500 it has received from the federal government for a home heating program. The money is given out interest-free to families that need help paying their heating bill. He expressed some worry that the federal grant might not cover the need if this winter continues to be as cold as it has been.

Information on any of the SBCA or Construct programs can be obtained from either Mrs. Hitchcock through the Lee Town Hall or from the SBCA office in Great Barrington.

12/16/76

Lee taxi driver taken for a ride

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — Lee taxi operator Donald Abbott of Greylock Street thought he was just picking up another fare to Pittsfield as he sat in his cab in front of the Town Hall.

But an hour later, when he was told Pittsfield was not to be the destination and his passenger ordered him "to drive toward Northampton," Abbott realized he was going to have a tale to tell.

The passenger, as it turned out, was Arthur P. Tatro of 331 River St., North Adams, who was a participant in the Berkshire County House of Corrections's work-release program at the U.S. Fibre Co. plant on Marble Street here. Tatro is serving a six-month sentence for assault and battery.

The tale ended happily for Abbott more than four hours later when Tatro, by that time slightly inebriated and snoozing in the back seat of the cab, was apprehended by North Adams Police. Abbott, a bald-headed 51-year-old with a grey beard and a paunch, had managed to signal a policeman in a cruiser by flashing his headlights.

Abbott, speaking excitedly yesterday as he described the incident, said those four hours with Tatro were harrowing. They included a journey under duress as far east as Williamsburg and as far north as Stafford, Vt.

Officials at the House of Corrections said the incident appeared to be a product of Tatro's loneliness. "It was just a simple case of a guy having a few drinks and wanting to go out and see his family," said Richard Smith, the head of jail's work-release program who talked with Tatro after his return to the House of Correction Tuesday evening.

"Tatro said he was depressed because of the holiday season and that he wanted to go see his family," Smith said.

Tatro was charged this morning in Pittsfield District Court with leaving the work detail. He will stand trial two days before Christmas.

Abbott confirmed that Tatro did visit his mother in Stafford, Vt., and intended to visit the rest of his family on River Street in North Adams.

As Abbott tells the tale of his unexpected journey, Tatro came running up to him at about 3:45 and paid him for a ride to Pittsfield. Abbott said he noticed that the man had been drinking, but Abbott said he had experience with people who drink and the passenger's drinking didn't bother him.

Abbott said that when the cab reached the intersection of Route 7 and Holmes Road in Lenox, "the guy (Tatro) said take me to North Adams. I told him it would cost him more money and he paid me."

Abbott said at that point the guy "started muttering about prison and how he was going to fool them, so I got suspicious. I asked him something about that and he kind of threatened me. He said drive him toward Northampton, and I did."

They headed east on Route 9, and Abbott recalled, "about 4:30 the guy said 'pull over and buy some booze.' The man was belligerent. He made me get the booze in Williamsburg, I think it was. After he got the booze he said to take him back to North Adams."

Abbott says they traveled along the Mohawk Trail. "He made me stop along the way, and he called his mother. Then he said we were going to his mother's house in Stafford."

After the Vermont stop, Abbott said the pair headed toward North Adams. "The guy didn't hurt me, and he didn't have a knife, but he was threatening me. I only have one leg so I couldn't run away or anything," Abbott said.

By the time the cab got near North Adams, Abbott said he saw in the rear-view mirror that Tatro was sleeping, apparently from the effects of the alcohol.

"When we got into North Adams I started going through red lights and stop signs, but wouldn't you know there was no cop around then. "Finally," Abbott said, "I saw a cop parked in a cruiser, and I started flashing my lights."

Abbott said the police cruiser started following his car. Finally Abbott said he saw that Tatro was asleep, so he pulled over, and quickly hopped out.

"Even without my crutches I ran over to that cruiser," he said.

Abbott said that he was not hurt in any way. Corrections officials said they did not know where Tatro got the money to pay for the taxi and the alcohol.

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WGRG drops news chief to keep station afloat

Radio station WGRG has fired its news director and abolished the post in a cost-cutting move designed to permit the station "to stay alive" until it is sold.

Anne Errington of Lee, who joined the station as a newscaster shortly after it began in 1971 and who has been its news director for the past 2½ years, said yesterday that she had been told Thursday that the next day would be her last day on the job.

The move, which was confirmed yesterday by station manager Myron M. Adelson of Stockbridge, leaves the station with no full-time newscaster.

Adelson said that David Calabrese, a disc jockey and the station's music director, will add the news director's duties to his others. Newscasts will be broadcast by the station's music announcers.

Adelson said that he had been told by station owners Jerry Graham of San Francisco, Calif., and Mel Gordon of New York City that Mrs. Errington's dismissal was necessary to allow the station to continue functioning until a planned sale of the station occurs.

Allen Roberts of Longmeadow, the president of Central Broadcasting Inc., which owns stations in Ware and Westfield, has filed an agreement to purchase the station with the Federal Communications Commission. The sale will occur when the federal agency issues its approval.

The move ends a consolidation of news operations and others begun a year ago to reduce the station's costs.

Tim Ashwell, the station's other newscaster, was fired without notice in January 1976, along with six other announcers, in what the owners described as an economy move.

Since Ashwell's departure, Mrs. Errington has been the only person on the news staff and the only one who has done any local reporting.

"The news operation will suffer, there's no doubt about that," Adelson said. "But we're not a station noted for scooping everyone."

The station's news department, however, has won national recognition for its efforts. In March 1974, it won first prize in United Press International's New England broadcasting competition.

In April 1974, Graham, who founded the station and operated it until he became general manager of station KSAN in San Francisco in 1975, won the national Sigma Delta Chi award for best radio editorializing, honoring a series Graham aired calling for, among other things, the resignation of President Nixon.

2-8-77

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

PRELIMINARY PLANS to open a pizza parlor in the Albert J. Maley house, above, at the corner of Main and Academy streets, drew protests from abutters. In bottom photo, from left, are Thomas Cinella, whose family's house abuts on Main Street, and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Durocher, whose house abuts on Academy Street.

Lee neighbors seek to block pizza parlor

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — Ten neighbors of St. Mary's Church turned out last night to complain to town officials about the possibility of a pizza parlor opening on Academy Street across from the church.

Calling the neighborhood along Main and Academy streets "residential" and "historic because of the old houses," the residents voiced their objections to tentative plans by Peter Constantopoulos to remodel the old Albert J. Maley house at the corner of Main and Academy. Constantopoulos last week asked the Planning Board for advice about the legality of opening a pizza parlor downstairs, and having two apartments upstairs in the 100-year-old house.

Constantopoulos now owns Lee Pizza at 95 Main St. He said he wants to move his operation to the Maley house because it offers more space. Constantopoulos has not yet purchased the house.

The principal spokesmen against the restaurant were Mr. and Mrs. Donald Durocher, who late last year bought the Academy Street house next to the Maley house, and Thomas Cinella, whose family owns the Main Street house next to the Maley house.

Both the Durochers and Cinella spoke about Constantopoulos's plan to pave a portion of the Maley lot to provide parking spaces. They argued a restaurant would significantly increase traffic on both streets.

"Putting in that pizza parlor will change the entire character of that neighborhood," Mrs. Durocher said. "It will make the streets around there much more crowded."

But Selectman Chairman Martin H. Deely said the "argument of increased traffic on the town's main street is not going to hold much weight."

Both the Selectmen and Planning Board, which met with the residents at different times last night, explained that the Maley house was in a business zone. That means Constantopoulos "can open a business as a matter of right," Deely said.

However, the Selectmen said the remodeling of the house's top floors into apartments requires a special permit, and therefore is subject to a public hearing and a decision by the board.

Although Constantopoulos gave no indication at the Planning Board meeting last week that he would seek a beer and wine license, several residents last night expressed anger that alcoholic beverages would be served.

"If there's pizza, then through some political pull they will have a beer license," said William B. Navin of High Street, who said he was a parishioner of St. Mary's. "You can't have pizza without beer."

Speaking on the evils of alcoholic beverages, Navin said "all churches should be given protection." Several town officials pointed out a church could prohibit beer and wine being served within 500 feet of a church under a provision of the state laws.

The residents said officials of St. Mary's have promised to object if the restaurant tries to serve alcoholic beverages.

Constantopoulos does not serve any alcohol at his current restaurant. There are no beer and wine licenses now available in the town.

Constantopoulos could not be reached for comment this morning and it could not be learned when he plans to decide whether to purchase the Maley house. Joseph M. Toole of Lee is acting as broker for the house.

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Rev. Joseph F. Gagan

Atty. Henry M. Donahue

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

RESPONDING to questions in Lee last night about the opening of a pizza restaurant at the corner of Main and Academy streets is Selectman William Murphy, right. Also pictured are Martin H. Deely, center, and Joseph J. Castronova. Some 17 people attended the meeting to protest the restaurant proposal.

Opposition mounts to pizza parlor

By Benjamin L. Ginsberg

LEE — The pastor of St. Mary's Church led a protest before the Selectmen last night against a plan to convert a home at Main and Academy streets into a pizza parlor. It was the second week in a row that residents of the neighborhood have appeared before the board to protest the move.

And although Peter Constantopoulos, who now owns Lee Pizza at 95 Main St., has not yet submitted plans and asked for permits, the Selectmen promised last night to call him and his real-estate agent into next Monday's meeting.

The 17 residents turned out last night because three weeks ago Constantopoulos and Joseph M. Toole, the realtor, appeared before the Planning Board to ask about the legality of converting the Albert J. Maley house into a pizza parlor. The lot is zoned commercial, and the Planning Board said opening a business in such a zone was a matter of right.

Rev. Joseph F. Gagan, the St. Mary's pastor, last night did not dispute the legality of the pizza parlor, but he did say a pizza parlor would not "be of the caliber of the fine homes" on Academy and Main streets. He said the restaurant would "hurt this nice residential neighborhood."

St. Mary's Church is located across Academy Street from the 100-year-old Maley house. Father Gagan said the pizza parlor could cause hardships for his parishioners. Citing the problems in recent years with youths vandalizing the library lawn and surrounding businesses — which are across Main Street from Constantopoulos's present restaurant and about 100 yards from St. Mary's — Father Gagan said:

"When people come to St. Mary's they come to revere God and not to be molested. I think that if the pizza restaurant goes in I can see the wall in front of the church as bleachers and people sitting in our flower gardens. And I would dislike having to call the police to remind people that our parking lot (located across Main Street from the church) is private."

William B. Navin of High Street agreed with Father Gagan, saying the pizza parlor would "cause a traffic hazard and there would be beer bottles on the lawn of St. Mary's."

Constantopoulos has indicated he will not ask for a beer and wine license.

Selectman Martin H. Deely said he was not necessarily in favor of the pizza parlor, but that he did not think the vandalism problem would spread from the library lawn if the pizza restaurant moved 200 yards.

"There's something about that library lawn," he said. "There's always been a fascination with that lawn. Even when I was a kid we used to hang out there. And that was before there was any pizza restaurant."

The leaders of the protest — Mr. and Mrs. Donald Durocher of Academy Street and Thomas Cinella of Main Street — also presented the Selectmen with petitions signed by about 300 Lee resident: and a statement from the Lee History Bicentennial Committee. Both petitions argued against the conversion of the house into a pizza restaurant.

Atty. Henry M. Donahue, the church's attorney, said that while the opening of the business was a matter of right, there was a legal question whether the restaurant could tie into the sewer line in the area. The line is privately owned by a long-inactive sewer association. The town is asking for funds to study the feasibility of taking over that line.

Malcolm E. Somes, the master of the Lee Grange, which owns a right-of-way through the Maley property to the Grange hall that sits behind the Maley house, said his group was unanimously opposed to the restaurant.

The principal worry of the abutters of the Maley home was summed up by Durocher, who said: "I can see the property values in the neighborhood dropping. We just moved here from Boston and I know what vandalism and dropping values are. I didn't think we were moving right back into that when we bought in Lee."

The Selectmen, in addition to promising to bring in Constantopoulos and Toole next week, said they would have to determine if the the Maley house would become a a multiple-unit dwelling as well as a restaurant. If it is, the Selectmen can ask impact statements and delay the opening of the business. Constantopoulos indicated he wanted to convert the top floor into apartments, meaning it could be made into a multiple-unit dwelling.

The purpose of next week's meeting, the Selectmen said, would be to answer questions about the pizza parlor and cut down on the number of rumors flying about the town.

Neither Constantopoulos nor Toole was present last night. Selectman Joseph J. Castronova suggested that Toole had not attended the meeting "because it's getting too hot in the kitchen."

R. E. Manley

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William H. Tague

ORIGINAL SHADOWBROOK mansion was a combination of Norman and half-timbered design. Massive building overlooked Stockbridge Bowl from a site about 100 yards east of present building. Original building served as a Jesuit novitiate and juniorate until it was destroyed by fire March 9, 1956.

Potential prison site in Lenox is former elegant estate, seminary

By Susan Besaw Walsh

Shadowbrook, the former private estate that later became a Jesuit seminary and that might now become a prison, was dominated during most of its history by what was the second largest private dwelling in the United States.

The old Shadowbrook mansion, built in the 1890s by millionaire Anson Phelps Stokes, contained about 100 rooms, took two years to build and cost about $1 million to build in days when that was a lot more money than it is today.

Through the six years the Stokes family owned the palatial mansion and later with the succession of other wealthy owners, it was the site of some of the most elite social events in the county, if not the country.

One of the Stokeses' sons who attended Yale University once sent a telegram home to his parents informing them he was going to bring his "Class of '97," meaning Class of 1897, home for the holidays. His mother, thinking her son meant he was bringing home 97 classmates, telegraphed back "we don't have room for all 97... we already have 20 guests in the house."

The elder Stokes, a banker, lost interest in the estate when his right leg was crushed and had to be amputated after a horse-riding accident in 1899. He reportedly was thrown against a tree on the property when his horse stepped on a hornet's nest and reared.

Stokes visited the home only once after he sold it in 1906 to Spencer P. Shotter, a wealthy turpentine magnate from Georgia.

Shotter, whose Georgia company was wiped out when he owned the property, sold it to industrialist Andrew Carnegie in 1917 for a reported $300,000.

Carnegie died at Shadowbrook only two years later, on Aug. 11, 1919, at age 84. The steel magnate, whose health was failing, reportedly believed that his Stockbridge estate was actually Skibo Castle, a mansion in Scotland to which his wife reportedly returned after placing Shadowbrook on the market.

The New England Province of the Society of Jesus bought part of the estate, an estimated 350 acres, in December 1922 and opened a novitiate and juniorate there a few months later. At the seminary, young Jesuits spent the first four years of their 15-year preparation for priesthood.

Tragedy struck early in the morning on March 10, 1956, when the 63-year-old mansion burned to the ground, killing three priests and a lay brother. Only the quarry-faced marble walls were left standing.

Through a fund drive, the Jesuits rebuilt the seminary at a cost of $4 million. When the new building opened in the fall of 1958, it could accommodate a religious community of 250. The new building was located about 200 yards west of the site of the old Shadowbrook mansion.

The new, four-story, modern, red brick seminary was believed to be the largest building in Berkshire County. When it opened, a Shadowbrook rector, the Rev. Lawrence S. Lagguth, called it a "self-contained little town."

The new building has about 450 rooms and occupies approximately four acres.

Two factors led to its closing only 12 years later. The number of young men seeking to become priests was declining on a nationwide basis and the emphasis on Jesuit education was changing. The majority of men studying for the priesthood no longer were isolated in country retreats like Shadowbrook.

Shadowbrook's last group of novices, about 50 young men in their first two years of study, were transferred to Weston College on Jan. 22, 1970.

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